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INTERESTED IN
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AN ELEMENTARY TREATISE ON SOUND.

HERCULES FURENS,

A

TRAGEDY OF SENECA.

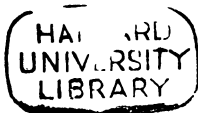
EDITED BY

CHARLES BECK,

PROFESSOR OF LATIN IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

BOSTON:

JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY.

1845.

PREFACE.

It has, for several years, been a rule in arranging the studies of the Latin department in Harvard College, to introduce specimens of the Roman drama. For this purpose an edition of the *Medea* of *Seneca* was some years ago prepared by the undersigned, and used by several classes. The edition being exhausted, the question presented itself whether it would be better to issue a second edition of the Medea, or select some other tragedy from the collection bearing the name of Seneca. Several and sufficiently weighty reasons led to a decision in favor of the latter course, and to the publication of the *Hercules Furens*.

While this play participates in most of the defects with which Seneca's tragedies are justly reproached, it cannot, and should

not, be denied that it has many and great excellencies. It contains passages scarcely surpassed in beauty by any other Roman poet; for example, the description of the break of day, in the chorus of the first act; or the address to Sleep, in the chorus of the fourth. The language, in this as in the other dramas of Seneca, is characterized by the greatest purity and correctness, and the versification is faultless.

The Hercules Furens proves that its author, although he has on the whole furnished little more than a paraphrase of the Ἡρακλῆς μαινόμενος of Euripides, was a man of taste and discrimination, and desirous of avoiding the defects of his original. A short sketch of the play of Euripides will show that Seneca perceived and shunned the principal defect of the work which he had fixed upon for imitation.

The tragedy of Euripides opens with the scene at the altar of Jupiter. Amphitryon, Megara and her children are assembled around the altar for protection *against* the tyrant Lycus, who has slain

Creon and possessed himself of the government. Amphitryon, in reply to Megara's inquiry, describes his helplessness, and can offer nothing else than hopes and wishes. Lycus appears and threatens Megara and her children with death. Megara is willing to die, and only asks some delay to prepare herself. Megara having made her preparations, Hercules appears, and, being informed of the conduct of Lycus, he enters with his family his house, there to await his enemy. Lycus comes again to execute his threat against Megara, follows her into the house, and is there slain by Hercules. After this, Iris and one of the Furies appear, to excite Hercules to madness. The Fury performs her task, and Hercules, in his madness, slays his wife and children. Recovering from his insanity, he is on the point of killing himself, when Theseus arrives and persuades him to follow him to Athens.

It will be at once seen, that with the death of Lycus the plot is complete. The addition of Hercules' madness destroys the

unity of the tragedy, by introducing a second plot, as it were. How simple and efficient is the remedy of our poet! By introducing, at the opening of the drama, Juno giving vent to her anger at her inability to overcome Hercules by any means of her own, and expressing her determination (see v. 84 and foll.) to conquer him by himself, unity of action is restored; that part of the drama which represents the madness of Hercules, not only ceases to be an awkward appendage, but becomes the most interesting point to which the reader, or spectator, prepared by the threat of Juno, looks eagerly forward from the beginning of the drama.

CHARLES BECK.

Cambridge, July 18, 1845.

HERCULES FURENS.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Juno.

Hercules.

Lycus.

Megara.

Amphitryon.

Theseus.

Chorus Thebanorum.

HERCULES FURENS.

ACTUS PRIMUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

JUNO.

Soror Tonantis (hoc enim solum mihi
Nomen relictum est) semper alienum Jovem
Ac templa summi vidua deserui ætheris,
Locumque cœlo pulsa pellicibus dedi.
Tellus colenda est: pellices cœlum tenent. 5
Hinc Arctos alta parte glacialis poli
Sublime classes sidus Argolicas agit;
Hinc, qua tepenti vere laxatur dies,
Tyriæ per undas vector Europæ nitet;
Illinc timendum ratibus ac ponto gregem 10
Passim vagantes exserunt Atlantides.
Ferro minaci hinc terret Orion deos:
Suasque Perseus aureus stellas habet.
Hinc clara gemini signa Tyndaridæ micant;
Quibusque natis mobilis tellus stetit. 15
Nec ipse tantum Bacchus aut Bacchi parens

Adiere superos: ne qua pars probro vacet,
Mundus puellæ serta Gnossiacæ gerit.
Sed vetera querimur: una me dira ac fera
Thebana nuribus sparsa tellus impiis 20
Quoties novercam fecit? escendat licet
Meumque victrix teneat Alcmene locum;
Pariterque natus astra promissa occupet,
In cujus ortus mundus impendit diem
Tardusque Eoo Phœbus effulsit mari 25
Retinere mersum jussus Oceano jubar.
Non sic abibunt odia: vivaces aget
Violentus iras animus, et sævus dolor
Æterna bella pace sublata geret.
Quæ bella? quidquid horridum tellus creat 30
Inimica; quidquid pontus aut aer tulit
Terribile, dirum, pestilens, atrox, ferum;
Fractum atque domitum est: superat et crescit
malis,
Iraque nostra fruitur: in laudes suas
Mea vertit odia: dum nimis sæva impero, 35
Patrem probavi: gloriæ feci locum:
Qua sol reducens quaque deponens diem,
Binos propinqua tingit Æthiopas face,
Indomita virtus colitur; et toto deus
Narratur orbe. Monstra jam desunt mihi; 40
Minorque labor est Herculi jussa exsequi
Quam mihi jubere. Lætus imperia excipit.
Quæ fera tyranni jussa violento queant

Nocere juveni? Nempe pro telis gerit,
Quæ timuit et quæ fudit: armatus venit 45
Leone et hydra. Nec satis terræ patent:
Effregit ecce limen inferni Jovis,
Et opima victi regis ad superos refert.
Parum est reverti: fœdus umbrarum perit.
Vidi ipsa, vidi nocte discussa inferum 50
Et Dite domito spolia jactantem patri
Fraterna. Cur non victum et oppressum trahit
Ipsum catenis paria sortitum Jovi,
Ereboque capto potitur, et retegit Styga?
Patefacta ab imis manibus retro via est, 55
Et sacra diræ mortis in aperto jacent.
At ille rupto carcere umbrarum ferox
De me triumphat, et superbifica manu
Atrum per urbes ducit Argolicas canem.
Viso labantem Cerbero vidi diem 60
Pavidumque solem: me quoque invasit tremor,
Et terna monstri colla devicti intuens
Timui imperasse. Levia sed nimium queror:
Cœlo timendum est, regna ne summa occupet,
Qui vicit ima. Sceptra præripiet patri. 65
Nec in astra lenta veniet ut Bacchus via:
Iter ruina quæret, et vacuo volet
Regnare mundo. Robore experto tumet,
Et posse cœlum viribus vinci suis
Didicit ferendo: subdidit mundo caput, 70
Nec flexit humeros molis immensæ labor,

Mediusque collo sedit Herculeo polus.
Immota cervix sidera et cœlum tulit
Et me prementem. Quærit ad superos viam.
Perge ira, perge, et magna meditantem opprime.
Congredere; manibus ipsa dilacera tuis. 76
Quid tanta mandas odia? discedant feræ:
Ipse imperando fessus Eurystheus vacet.
Titanas ausos rumpere imperium Jovis
Emitte: Siculi verticis laxa specum. 80
Tellus gigante Doris excusso tremens
Supposita monstri colla terrifici levet.
Sublimis alias Luna concipiat feras.
Sed vicit ista. Quæris Alcidæ parem?
Nemo est nisi ipse: bella jam secum gerat. 85
Adsint ab imo Tartari fundo excitæ
Eumenides: ignem flammeæ spargant comæ:
Viperea sævæ verbera incutiant manus.
I nunc, superbe, cœlitum sedes pete!
Humana temne! Jam Styga et manes, ferox, 90
Fugisse credis? Hic tibi ostendam inferos.
Revocabo in alta conditam caligine
Ultra nocentum exsilia discordem deam,
Quam munit ingens montis oppositi specus.
Educam, et imo Ditis e regno extraham 95
Quidquid relictum est. Veniat invisum Scelus,
Suumque lambens sanguinem Impietas ferox,
Errorque, et in se semper armatus Furor!
Hoc hoc ministro noster utatur dolor.

Incipite, famulæ Ditis: ardentem incitæ 100
Concutite pinum, et agmen horrendum anguibus
Megæra ducat, atque luctifica manu
Vastam rogo flagrante corripiat trabem!
Hoc agite! Pœnas petite violatæ Stygis!
Concutite pectus! acrior mentem excoquat 105
Quam qui caminis ignis Ætnæis furit.
Ut possit animo captus Alcides agi
Magno furore percitus, nobis prius
Insaniendum est. Juno, cur nondum furis?
Me, me, sorores, mente dejectam mea 110
Versate primam, facere si quidquam apparo
Dignum noverca! Jam odia mutentur mea.
Natos reversus videat incolumes, precor,
Manuque fortis redeat. Inveni diem,
Invisa quo nos Herculis virtus juvet: 115
Me pariter et se vincat, et cupiat mori
Ab inferis reversus. Hic prosit mihi
Jove esse genitum. Stabo, et, ut certo exeant
Emissa nervo tela, librabo manum:
Regam furentis arma: pugnanti Herculi 120
Tandem favebo. Scelere perfecto licet
Admittat illas genitor in cœlum manus.
Movenda jam sunt bella; clarescit dies,
Ortuque Titan lucidus croceo subit.

SCENA ALTERA.

Chorus Thebanorum.

Jam rara micant sidera prono 125
Languida mundo: nox victa vagos
Contrahit ignes luce renata;
Cogit nitidum Phosphoros agmen:
Signum celsi glaciale poli
Septem stellis Arcades ursæ 130
Lucem verso temone vocant:
Jam cæruleis evectus equis
Titan summa prospicit Œta:
Jam Cadmeïs inclita Bacchis
Aspersa die dumeta rubent: 135
Phœbique fugit reditura soror.
Labor exoritur durus, et omnes
Agitat curas, aperitque domos.
Pastor gelida cana pruina
Grege dimisso pabula carpit. 140
Ludit prato liber aperto
Nondum rupta fronte juvencus.
Vacuæ reparant ubera matres.
Errat cursu levis incerto
Molli petulans hœdus in herba. 145
Pendet summo stridula ramo,
Pennasque novo tradere soli
Gestit querulos inter nidos

Thracia pellex; turbaque circa
Confusa sonat murmure mixto 150
Testata diem: carbasa ventis
Credit dubius navita vitæ
Laxos aura complente sinus:
Hic exesis penden scopulis
Aut deceptos instruit hamos, 155
Aut suspensus spectat pressa
Præmia dextra. Sentit tremulum
Linea piscem.
Hæc, innocuæ quibus est vitæ
Tranquilla quies et læta suo 160
Parvoque domus spes et in agris.
Turbine magno spes sollicitæ
Urbibus errant trepidique metus.
Ille superbos aditus regum
Durasque fores expers somni 165
Colit: hic nullo fine beatus
Componit opes gazis inhians,
Et congesto pauper in auro est.
Illum populi favor attonitum
Fluctuque magis mobile vulgus 170
Aura tumidum tollit inani:
Hic clamosi rabiosa fori
Jurgia vendens improbus iras
Et verba locat. Novit paucos
Secura quies, qui velocis 175
Memores ævi tempora nunquam

Reditura tenent. Dum fata sinunt,
Vivite læti: properat cursu
Vita citato, volucrique die
Rota præcipitis vertitur anni. 180
Duræ peragunt pensa Sorores,
Nec sua retro fila revolvunt.
At gens hominum fertur rapidis
Obvia fatis incerta sui:
Stygias ultro quærimus undas. 185
Nimium, Alcide, pectore forti
Properas mœstos visere manes.
Certo veniunt ordine Parcæ.
Nulli jusso cessare licet,
Nulli scriptum proferre diem. 190
Recipit populos urna citatos.
Alium multis gloria terris
Tradat, et omneis fama per urbes
Garrula laudet, cœloque parem
Tollat et astris: alius curru 195
Sublimis eat: me mea tellus
Lare secreto tutoque tegat.
Venit ad pigros cana senectus:
Humilique loco sed certa sedet
Sordida parvæ fortuna domus: 200
Alte virtus animosa cadit.
Sed mœsta venit crine soluto
Megara parvum comitata gregem,
Tardusque senio graditur Alcidæ parens.

ACTUS SECUNDUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

MEGARA. AMPHITRYON.

MEGARA.

O magne Olympi rector et mundi arbiter, 205
Jam statue tandem gravibus ærumnis modum
Finemque cladi! Nulla lux unquam mihi
Secura fulsit: finis alterius mali
Gradus est futuri: protenus reduci novus
Paratur hostis: antequam lætam domum 210
Contingat, aliud jussus ad bellum meat.
Nec ulla requies, tempus aut ullum datur,
Nisi dum jubetur: sequitur a primo statim
Infesta Juno: numquid immunis fuit
Infantis ætas? monstra superavit prius, 215
Quam nosse posset: gemina cristati caput
Angues ferebant ora, quos contra obvius
Reptavit infans; igneos serpentium
Oculos remisso lumine ac placido intuens
Arctos serenis vultibus nodos tulit, 220
Et tumida tenera guttura elidens manu
Prolusit hydræ. Mænali pernix fera
Multo decorum præferens auro caput
Deprensa cursu est. Maximus Nemeæ timor
Gemuit lacertis pressus Herculeis leo. 225

Quid stabula memorem dira Bistonii gregis
Suisque regem pabulum armentis datum?
Solitumque densis hispidum Erymanthi jugis
Arcadia quatere nemora Mænalium suem?
Taurumque centum non levem populis metum? 230
Inter remotos gentis Hesperiæ greges
Pastor triformis litoris Tartessii
Peremtus, acta est præda ab occasu ultimo;
Notum Cithæron pavit Oceano pecus.
Penetrare jussus solis æstivi plagas, 235
Et adusta medius regna quæ torret dies,
Utrimque montes solvit abrupto objice,
Et jam ruenti fecit Oceano viam.
Post hæc adortus nemoris opulenti domos
Aurifera vigilis spolia serpentis tulit. 240
Quid? sæva Lernæ monstra, numerosum malum,
Non igne demum vicit et docuit mori?
Solitasque pennis condere obductis diem
Petiit ab ipsis nubibus Stymphalidas?
Non vicit illum cælibis semper tori 245
Regina gentis vidua Thermodontiæ:
Nec ad omne clarum facinus audaces manus
Stabuli fugavit turpis Augiæ labor.
Quid ista prosunt? orbe defenso caret.
Sensere terræ pacis auctorem suæ 250
Abesse terris. Prosperum ac felix scelus

---

248. *Stabulis.*

Virtus vocatur; sontibus parent boni.
Jus est in armis, opprimit leges timor.
Ante ora vidi nostra truculenta manu
Natos paterni cadere regni vindices, 255
Ipsamque Cadmi nobilis stirpem ultimam
Occidere; vidi regium capitis decus
Cum capite raptum. Quis satis Thebas fleat?
Ferax deorum terra, quem dominum tremis?
E cujus arvis eque fœcundo sinu 260
Stricto juventus orta cum ferro stetit;
Cujusque muros natus Amphion Jove
Struxit canoro saxa modulatu trahens,
In cujus urbem non semel divum parens
Cœlo relicto venit; hæc quæ cœlites 265
Recepit, et quæ fecit, et (fas sit loqui)
Fortasse faciet, sordido premitur jugo.
Cadmea proles civitasque Amphionis,
Quo decidistis? tremitis ignavum exsulem,
Suis carentem finibus, nostris gravem? 270
Qui scelera terra quique persequitur mari,
Ac sæva justa sceptra confringit manu,
Nunc servit absens, fertque quæ ferri vetat:
Tenetque Thebas exsul Herculeas Lycus.
Sed non tenebit: aderit, et pœnas petet, 275
Subitusque ad astra emerget: inveniet viam,
Aut faciet. Adsis sospes et remees, precor,
Tandemque venias victor ad victam domum.
Emerge, conjux, atque dispulsas manu

Abrumpe tenebras. Nulla si retro via, 280
Iterque clausum est, orbe diducto redi,
Et quidquid atra nocte possessum latet,
Emitte tecum. Dirutis qualis jugis
Præceps citato flumini quærens iter
Quondam stetisti, scissa cum vasto impetu 285
Patuere Tempe. Pectore impulsus tuo
Huc mons et illuc cecidit, et rupto aggere
Nova cucurrit Thessalus torrens via.
Talis parentes, liberos, patriam petens
Erumpe rerum terminos tecum efferens; 290
Et quidquid avida tot per annorum gradus
Abscondit ætas, redde; et oblitos sui
Lucisque pavidos ante te populos age.
Indigna te sunt spolia, si tantum refers,
Quantum imperatum est. Magna sed nimium
loquor 295
Ignara nostræ sortis. Unde illum mihi,
Quo te tuamque dexteram amplectar, diem
Reditusque lentos nec mei memores querar?
Tibi, o deorum ductor, indomiti ferent
Centena tauri colla: tibi, frugum potens, 300
Secreta reddam sacra: tibi muta fide
Longas Eleusin tacita jactabit faces.
Tum restitutas fratribus rebor meis
Animas et ipsum regna moderantem sua
Florere patrem. Si qua te major tenet 305
Clausum potestas; sequimur. Aut omnes tuos

Defende reditu sospes, aut omnes trahe!
Trahes, nec ullus eriget fractos deus.

AMPHITRYON.

O socia nostri sanguinis, casta fide
Servans torum natosque magnanimi Herculis, 310
Meliora mente concipe, atque animum excita.
Aderit profecto, qualis ex omni folet
Labore, major.

MEGARA.

Quod nimis miseri volunt,
Hoc facile credunt.

AMPHITRYON.

Immo quod metuunt nimis,
Nunquam amoveri posse nec tolli putant. 315
Prona est timori semper in pejus fides.

MEGARA.

Demersus ac defossus et toto insuper
Oppressus orbe, quam viam ad superos habet?

AMPHITRYON.

Quam tunc habebat, cum per arentem plagam
Et fluctuantes more turbati maris 320
Abiit arenas bisque discedens fretum
Et bis recurrens: cumque deserta rate
Deprensus hæsit Syrtium brevibus vadis,
Et puppe fixa maria superavit pedes.

MEGARA.

Iniqua raro maximis virtutibus 325
Fortuna parcit. Nemo se tuto diu

Periculis offerre tam crebris potest.
Quem sæpe transit casus, aliquando invenit.
Sed ecce sævus ac minas vultu gerens
Et, qualis animo est, talis incessu venit 330
Aliena dextra sceptra concutiens Lycus.

SCENA ALTERA.

Lycus. Megara. Amphitryon.

LYCUS.

Urbis regens opulenta Thebanæ loca
Et omne quidquid uberi cingit solo
Obliqua Phocis, quidquid Ismenos rigat,
Quidquid Cithæron vertice excelso videt, 335
Et bina findens Isthmos exilis freta,
Non vetera patriæ jura possideo domus
Ignavus heres: nobiles non sunt mihi
Avi nec altis inclitum titulis genus,
Sed clara virtus. Qui genus jactat suum, 340
Aliena laudat. Rapta sed trepida manu
Sceptra obtinentur: omnis in ferro est salus.
Quod civibus tenere te invitis scias,
Strictus tuetur ensis. Alieno in loco
Haud stabile regnum est: una sed nostras potest
Fundare vires, juncta regali face 346
Thalamisque Megara. Ducet e genere inclito
Novitas colorem nostra. Non equidem reor
Fore, ut recuset, ac meos spernat toros.

Quod si impotenti pertinax animo abnuet, 350
Stat tollere omnem penitus Herculeam domum.
Invidia factum ac sermo popularis premet?
Ars prima regni posse te invidiam pati.
Tentemus igitur: fors dedit nobis locum:
Namque ipsa tristi vestis obtentu caput 355
Velata juxta præsides adstat deos,
Laterique adhæret verus Alcidæ sator.

MEGARA.

Quidnam iste, nostri generis exitium ac lues,
Novi parat? quid tentat?

LYCUS.

O clarum trahens
A stirpe nomen regia, facilis mea 360
Parumper aure verba patienti excipe.
Si æterna semper odia mortales agant,
Nec cœptus unquam cedat ex animis furor,
Sed arma felix teneat, infelix paret:
Nihil relinquent bella; tum vastis ager 365
Squalebit arvis; subdita tectis face
Altus sepultas obruet gentes cinis.
Pacem reduci velle victori expedit,
Victo necesse est. Particeps regno veni:
Sociemur animis! Pignus hoc fidei cape: 370
Continge dextram! Quid truci vultu siles?

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353. *posse ad invidiam.*

370. Cod. Flor. — Al. *Sociemus animos.*

MEGARA.

Egone ut parentis sanguine aspersam manum
Fratrumque gemina cæde contingam? Prius
Exstinguet ortus, referet occasus diem;
Pax ante fida nivibus et flammis erit, 375
Et Scylla Siculum junget Ausonio latus;
Priusque multo vicibus alternis fugax
Euripus unda stabit Euboica piger.
Patrem abstulisti, regna, germanos, larem,
Patriam; quid ultra est? Una res superest mihi 380
Fratre ac parente carior, regno ac lare,
Odium tui, quod esse cum populo mihi
Commune doleo; pars quota ex illo mea est?
Dominare tumidus! spiritus altos gere!
Sequitur superbos ultor a tergo deus. 385
Thebana novi regna. Quid matres loquar
Passas et ausas scelera? quid geminum nefas
Mixtumque nomen conjugis nati patris?
Quid bina fratrum castra? quid totidem rogos?
Riget superba Tantalis luctu parens, 390
Mœstusque Phrygio manat in Sipylo lapis.
Quin ipse torvum subrigens crista caput
Illyria Cadmus regna permensus fuga
Longas reliquit corporis tracti notas.
Hæc te manent exempla. Dominare, ut lubet, 395
Dum solita regni fata te nostri vocent.

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383. Cod. Flor. — Al. *isto*.

LYCUS.

Agedum, efferatas rabida voces amove,
Et disce regum imperia ab Alcide pati.
Ego rapta quamvis sceptra victrici geram
Dextra, regamque cuncta sine legum metu, 400
Quas arma vincunt, pauca pro causa loquar
Nostra. Cruento cecidit in bello pater?
Cecidere fratres? Arma non servant modum,
Nec temperari facile nec reprimi potest
Stricti ensis ira; bella delectat cruor. 405
Sed ille regno pro suo, nos improba
Cupidine acti. Quæritur belli exitus,
Non causa. Sed nunc pereat omnis memoria.
Cum victor arma posuit, et victum decet
Deponere odia. Non ut inflexo genu 410
Regnantem adores, petimus. Hoc ipsum placet,
Animo ruinas quod capis magno tuas.
Es rege conjux digna: sociemus toros.

MEGARA.

Gelidus per artus vadit exsangues tremor.
Quod facinus aures pepulit? Haud equidem hor-
rui, 415
Cum pace rupta bellicus muros fragor
Circumsonaret; pertuli intrepide omnia.
Thalamos tremisco: capta nunc videor mihi.
Gravent catenæ corpus, et longa fame
Mors protrahatur lenta: non vincet fidem 420
Vis ulla nostram: moriar, Alcide, tua!

LYCUS.

Animosne mersus inferis conjux facit?

MEGARA.

Inferna tetigit, posset ut supera assequi.

LYCUS.

Telluris illum pondus immensæ premit.

MEGARA.

Nullo premetur onere, qui cœlum tulit. 425

LYCUS.

Cogere.

MEGARA.

Cogi qui potest, nescit mori.

LYCUS.

Effare, thalamis quod novis potius parem
Regale munus?

MEGARA.

Aut tuam mortem aut meam.

LYCUS.

Moriere demens?

MEGARA.

Conjugi occurram meo.

LYCUS.

Sceptrone nostro potior est famulus tibi? 430

MEGARA.

Quot iste famulus tradidit reges neci!

LYCUS.

Cur ergo regi servit, et patitur jugum?

MEGARA.

Imperia dura tolle, quid virtus erit?

LYCUS.

Obici feris monstrisque virtutem putas?

MEGARA.

Virtutis est domare, quæ cuncti pavent. 435

LYCUS.

Tenebræ loquentem magna Tartareæ premunt.

MEGARA.

Non est ad astra mollis e terris via.

LYCUS.

Quo patre genitus cœlitum sperat domos?

AMPHITRYON.

Miseranda conjux Herculis magni sile:
Partes meæ sunt reddere Alcidæ patrem 440
Genusque verum. Post tot ingentis viri
Memoranda facta, postque pacatum manu,
Quodcunque Titan ortus et labens videt,
Post monstra tot perdomita, post Phlegram impio
Sparsam cruore postque defensos deos 445
Nondum liquet de patre? mentimur Jovem?
Junonis odio crede.

LYCUS.

Quid violas lovem?
Mortale cœlo non potest jungi genus.

AMPHITRYON.

Communis ista pluribus causa est deis.

LYCUS.

Famuline fuerant, ante quam fierent dei? 450

AMPHITRYON.

Pastor Pheræos Delius pavit greges.

LYCUS.

Sed non per omnes exsul erravit plagas.

AMPHITRYON.

Quem profuga terra mater errante edidit.

LYCUS.

Non monstra sævas Phœbus aut timuit feras.

AMPHITRYON

Primus sagittas imbuit Phœbi draco. 455

LYCUS.

Quam gravia parvus tulerit ignoras mala?

AMPHITRYON.

E matris utero fulmine ejectus puer
Mox fulminanti proximus patri stetit.
Quid? qui gubernat astra, qui nubes quatit,
Non latuit infans rupis Idææ specu? 460
Sollicita tanti pretia natales habent,
Semperque magno constitit nasci deum.

LYCUS.

Quemcunque miserum videris, hominem scias.

AMPHITRYON.

Quemcunque fortem videris, miserum neges.

LYCUS.

Fortem vocemus, cujus ex humeris leo 465
Donum puellæ factus et clava excidit,
Fulsitque pictum veste Sidonia latus?
Fortem vocemus, cujus horrentes comæ
Maduere nardo? laude qui notas manus
Ad non virilem tympani movit sonum 470
Mitra ferocem barbara frontem premens?

AMPHITRYON.

Non erubescit Bacchus effusos tener
Sparsisse crines nec manu molli levem
Vibrasse thyrsum, cum parum forti gradu
Auro decorum syrma barbarico trahit. 475
Post multa virtus opera laxari solet.

LYCUS.

Teuthrantis hoc fatetur eversi domus
Pecorumque ritu virginum oppressi greges.
Hoc nulla Juno, nullus Eurystheus jubet:
Ipsius hæc sunt opera.

AMPHITRYON.

Non nosti omnia. 480
Ipsius opus est cæstibus fractus suis
Eryx et Eryci junctus Antæus Libys,
Et qui hospitali cæde manantes foci
Bibere justum sanguinem Busiridis.
Ipsius opus est vulneri et ferro obvius 485
Mortem coactus integer Cygnus pati,
Nec unus una Geryon victus manu.
Eris inter istos; qui tamen nullo stupro
Læsere thalamus.

LYCUS.

Quod Jovi, hoc regi licet:
Jovi dedisti coujugem: regi dabis. 490
Et te magistro non novum hoc discet nurus
Etiam viro probante meliorem sequi.
Sin copulari pertinax tædis negat,
Vel ex coacta nobilem partum feram.

MEGARA.

Umbræ Creontis et penates Labdaci 495
Et nuptiales impii Œdipodæ faces,
Nunc solita nostro fata conjugio date!
Nunc nunc, cruentæ regis Ægypti nurus,
Adeste multo sanguine infectæ manus!
Deest una numero Danais; explebo nefas. 500

LYCUS.

Conjugia quoniam pervicax nostra abnuis,
Regemque terres: sceptra quid possint, scies.
Complectere aras: nullus eripiet deus
Te mihi: nec orbe si remolito queat
Ad supera victor numina Alcides vehi. 505
Congerite silvas, templa supplicibus suis
Injecta flagrent, conjugem et totum gregem
Consumat unus igne subjecto rogus.

AMPHITRYON.

Hoc munus a te genitor Alcidæ peto,
Rogare quod me deceat, ut primus cadam. 510

LYCUS.

Qui morte cunctos luere supplicium jubet,
Nescit tyrannus esse. Diversa irroga:
Miserum veta perire, felicem jube.
Ego, dum cremandis trabibus accrescit rogus,
Sacro regentem maria votivo colam. 515

AMPHITRYON.

Pro numinum vis summa, pro cœlestium
Rector parensque, cujus excussis tremunt

Humana telis, impiam regis feri
Compesce dextram. Quid deos frustra precor?
Ubicunque es, audi, nate. Cur subito labant 520
Agitata motu templa? cur mugit solum?
Infernus imo sonuit e fundo fragor.
Audimur: est, est sonitus Herculei gradus.

SCENA TERTIA.

CHORUS THEBANORUM.

O fortuna viris invida fortibus,
Quam non æqua bonis præmia dividis! 525
Eurystheus facili regnet in otio:
Alcmena genitus bella per omnia
Monstris exagitet cœliferam manum:
Serpentis resecet colla feracia:
Deceptis referat mala sororibus, 530
Cum somno dederit pervigiles genas
Pomis divitibus præpositus draco.
Intravit Scythiæ multivagas domos
Et gentes patriis sedibus hospitas:
Calcavitque freti terga rigentia 535
Et mutis tacitum litoribus mare.
Illic dura carent æquora fluctibus;
Et qua plena rates carbasa tenderant,
Intonsis teritur semita Sarmatis.

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523. Cod. Flor.—Al. *en, en.*

Stat pontus vicibus mobilis annuis, 540
Navem nunc facilis nunc equitem pati.
Illic, quæ viduis gentibus imperat
Aurato religans ilia balteo,
Detraxit spolium nobile corpori
Et peltam et nivei vincula pectoris 545
Victorem posito suspiciens genu.
Qua spe præcipites actus ad inferos,
Audax ire vias irremeabiles,
Vidisti Siculæ regna Proserpinæ?
Illic nulla Noto nulla Favonio 550
Consurgunt tumidis fluctibus æquora.
Non illic geminum Tyndaridæ genus
Succurrunt timidis sidera navibus.
Stat nigro pelagus gurgite languidum;
Et cum mors avidis pallida dentibus 555
Gentes innumeras manibus intulit,
Uno tot populi remige transeunt.
Evincas utinam jura feræ Stygis
Parcarumque colos non revocabiles!
Heic qui rex populis pluribus imperat, 560
Bello cum peteres Nestoream Pylon,
Tecum conseruit pestiferas manus
Telum tergemina cuspide præferens;
Effugit tenui vulnere saucius,
Et mortis dominus pertimuit mori. 565
Fatum rumpe manu: tristibus inferis
Prospectus pateat lucis, et invius

Limes det faciles ad superos vias.
Immites potuit flectere cantibus
Umbrarum dominos et prece supplici 570
Orpheus, Eurydicen dum repetit suam.
Quæ silvas et aves saxaque traxerat
Ars, quæ præbuerat fluminibus moras;
Ad cujus sonitum constiterant feræ,
Mulcet non solitis vocibus inferos, 575
Et surdis resonat clarius in locis.
Deflent Eurydicen Threiciæ nurus,
Deflent et lacrimis difficiles dei;
Et qui fronte nimis crimina tetrica
Quærunt, ac veteres excutiunt reos, 580
Flentes Eurydicen juridici sedent.
Tandem mortis, ait, vincimur, arbiter:
Evade ad superos, lege tamen data:
Tu post terga tui perge viri comes;
Tu non ante tuam respice conjugem, 585
Quam cum clara deos obtulerit dies,
Spartanique aderit janua Tænari.
Odit verus amor nec patitur moras.
Munus, dum properat cernere, perdidit.
Quæ vinci potuit regia cantibus, 590
Hæc vinci poterit regia viribus.

ACTUS TERTIUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

HERCULES.

O lucis alme rector et cœli decus,
Qui alterna curru spatia flammifero ambiens
Illustre lætis exseris terris caput,
Da, Phœbe, veniam, si quid illicitum tui 595
Videre vultus: jussus in lucem extuli
Arcana mundi. Tuque cœlestum arbiter
Parensque, visus fulmine opposito tege;
Et tu secundo maria qui sceptro regis,
Imas pete undas! Quisquis ex alto aspicit 600
Terrena facie pollui metuens nova,
Aciem reflectat, oraque in cœlum erigat
Portenta fugiens. Hoc nefas cernant duo,
Qui advexit, et quæ jussit. In pœnas meas
Atque in labores non satis terræ patent; 605
Junonis odio vidi inaccessa omnibus,
Ignota Phœbo, quæque deterior polus
Obscura diro spatia concessit Jovi;
Et si placerent tertiæ sortis loca,
Regnare potui. Noctis æternæ chaos 610
Et nocte quiddam gravius et tristes deos
Et fata vici; morte contemta redi;
Quid restat aliud? Vidi et ostendi inferos.

Da, si quid ultra est. Tam diu pateris manus
Cessare nostras, Juno? Quid vinci jubes? 615
Sed templa quare miles infestus tenet,
Limenque sacrum terror armorum obsidet?

SCENA ALTERA.

MEGARA. AMPHITRYON. HERCULES. THESEUS.

AMPHITRYON.

Utrumne visus vota decipiunt meos,
An ille domitor orbis et Grajum decus
Tristi silentem nubilo liquit domum? 620
Estne ille natus? Membra lætitia stupent.
O nate, certa et sera Thebarum salus!
Teneone in auras editum, an vana fruor
Deceptus umbra? Tune es? Agnosco toros
Humerosque et alto nobilem trunco manum. 625

HERCULES.

Unde iste, genitor, squalor et lugubribus
Amicta conjux? unde tam fœdo obsiti
Pædore nati? Quæ domum clades gravat?

AMPHITRYON.

Socer est peremtus: regna possedit Lycus;
Natos parentem conjugem leto petit. 630

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622. Gruterus, *at sera.*

HERCULES.

Ingrata tellus! Nemo ad Herculeæ domus
Auxilia venit? Vidit hoc tantum nefas
Defensus orbis? Cur diem questu tero?
Mactetur hostis.

THESEUS.

Hanc ferat virtus notam,
Fiatque summus hostis Alcidæ Lycus? 635
Ad hauriendum sanguinem inimicum feror.

HERCULES.

Theseu, resiste, ne qua vis subita ingruat;
Me bella poscunt. Differ amplexus parens;
Conjuxque differ: nuntiet Diti Lycus
Me jam redisse.

THESEUS.

Flebilem ex oculis fuga, 640
Regina, vultum: tuque nato sospite
Lacrimas cadentes reprime: si novi Herculem,
Lycus Creonti debitas pœnas dabit.
Lentum est dabit; dat: hoc quoque est lentum; dedit.

AMPHITRYON.

Votum secundet, qui potest, nostrum deus 645
Rebusque lapsis adsit. O magni comes
Magnanime nati, pande virtutum ordinem,
Quam longa mœstos ducat ad manes via,
Ut vincla tulerit dura Tartareus canis.

THESEUS.

Memorare cogis acta securæ quoque 650

Horrenda menti. Vix adhuc certa est fides
Vitalis auræ: torpet acies luminum,
Hebetesque visus vix diem insuetum ferunt.

AMPHITRYON.

Pervince, Theseu, quidquid alto in pectore
Remanet pavoris, neve te fructu optimo 655
Frauda laborum. Quæ fuit durum pati,
Meminisse dulce est: fare casus horridos.

THESEUS.

Fas omne mundi teque dominantem precor
Regno capaci teque, quam tota irrita
Quæsivit Ætna mater, ut jura abdita 660
Et operta terris liceat impune eloqui.
Spartana tellus nobile attollit jugum,
Densis ubi æquor Tænarus silvis premit:
Heic ora solvit Ditis invisi domus,
Hiatque rupes alta, et immenso specu 665
Ingens vorago faucibus vastis patet,
Latumque pandit omnibus populis iter.
Non cæca tenebris incipit primo via:
Tenuis relictæ lucis a tergo nitor
Fulgorque dubius solis afflicti cadit, 670
Et ludit aciem; nocte sic mixta solet
Præbere lumen primus aut serus dies.
Hinc ampla vacuis spatia laxantur locis,
In quæ omne mersum pereat humanum genus.
Nec ire labor est: ipsa deducit via. 675
Ut sæpe puppes æstus invitas rapit,

Sic pronus aer urget atque avidum chaos,
Gradumque retro flectere haud unquam sinunt
Umbræ tenaces. Intus immensi sinus
Placido quieta labitur Lethe vado, 680
Demitque curas: neve remeandi amplius
Pateat facultas, flexibus multis gravem
Involvit amnem; qualis incerta vagus
Mæander unda ludit, et cedit sibi
Instatque, dubius, littus an fontem petat. 685
Palus inertis fœdo Cocyti jacet.
Hic vultur, illic luctifer bubo gemit,
Omenque triste resonat infaustæ strigis;
Horrent opaca fronde nigrantes comæ
Taxo imminente, quam tenet segnis Sopor 690
Famesque mœsta tabido rictu jacens;
Pudorque serus conscios vultus tegit:
Metus Pavorque Funus et frendens Dolor
Aterque Luctus sequitur et Morbus tremens
Et cincta ferro Bella: in extremo abdita 695
Iners Senectus adjuvat baculo gradum.

AMPHITRYON.

Estne aliqua tellus Cereris aut Bacchi ferax?

THESEUS.

Non prata viridi læta facie germinant,
Nec adulta leni fluctuat Zephyro seges;
Non ulla ramos silva pomiferos habet: 700

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679. Cod. Flor.—Al. *immenso sinu.*

Sterilis profundi vastitas squalet soli,
Et fœda tellus torpet æterno situ,
Rerumque mœstus finis et mundi ultima
Immotus aer hæret, et pigro sedet
Nox atra mundo; cuncta mœrore horrida, 705
Ipsaque morte pejor est mortis locus.

AMPHITRYON.

Quid, ille, opaca qui regit sceptro loca,
Qua sede positus temperat populos leves?

THESEUS.

Est in recessu Tartari obscuro locus,
Quem gravibus umbris spissa caligo alligat. 710
A fonte discors manat hinc uno latex:
Alter quieto similis (hunc jurant dei)
Tacente sacram devehens fluvio Styga:
At hic tumultu rapitur ingenti ferox,
Et saxa fluctu volvit Acheron invius 715
Renavigari. Cingitur duplici vado
Adversa Ditis regia, atque ingens domus
Umbrante luco tegitur: hic vasto specu
Pendent tyranni limina: hoc umbris iter;
Hæc porta regni; campus hanc circa jacet, 720
In quo superbo digerit vultu sedens
Animas recentes. Dira majestas deo,
Frons torva, fratrum quæ tamen speciem gerat
Gentisque tantæ: vultus est illi Jovis,

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719. *hac umbris iter*; Bothe.

Sed fulminantis; magna pars regni trucis 725
Est ipse dominus, cujus aspectum timet,
Quidquid timetur.

AMPHITRYON.

Verane est fama inferis
Tam sera reddi jura et oblitos sui
Sceleris nocentes debitas pœnas dare?
Quis iste veri rector atque æqui arbiter? 730

THESEUS.

Non unus alta sede quæsitor sedens
Judicia trepidis sera sortitur reis:
Aditur illo Gnossius Minos foro,
Rhadamantus illo, Thetidis hoc audit socer.
Quod quisque fecit, patitur: auctorem scelus 735
Repetit, suoque premitur exemplo nocens.
Vidi cruentos carcere includi duces
Et impotentis terga plebeja manu
Scindi tyranni. Quisquis est placide potens,
Dominusque vitæ servat innocuas manus, 740
Et incruentum mitis imperium regit,
Animæque parcit; longa permensus diu
Felicis ævi spatia vel cœlum petit
Vel læta felix nemoris Elysii loca
Judex futurus. Sanguine humano abstine, 745
Quicunque regnas: scelera taxantur modo
Majore vestra.

AMPHITRYON.

Certus inclusos tenet

Locus nocentes, utque fert fama, impios
Supplicia vinclis sæva perpetuis domant?

THESEUS.

Rapitur volucri tortus Ixion rota; 750
Cervice saxum grande Sisyphia sedet;
In amne medio faucibus siccis senex
Sectatur undas; alluit mentum latex;
Fidemque cum jam sæpe decepto dedit,
Perit unda in ore; poma destituunt famem; 755
Præbet volucri Tityos æternas dapes;
Urnasque frustra Danaides plenas gerunt;
Errant furentes impiæ Cadmeides;
Terretque mensas avida Phineas avis.

AMPHITRYON.

Nunc ede nati nobilem pugnam mei. 760
Patrui volentis munus an spolium refert?

THESEUS.

Ferale tardis imminet saxum vadis,
Stupent ubi undæ, segne torpescit fretum:
Hunc servat amnem cultu et aspectu horridus,
Pavidosque manes squalidus gestat senex; 765
Impexa pendet barba, deformem sinum
Nodus coercet, concavæ lurent genæ,
Regit ipse conto portitor longo ratem.
Hic onere vacuam litori puppim applicans
Repetebat umbras; poscit Alcides viam 770

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767. Bothe conj.—Al. *lucent*. Cod. Flor. *squallent*.

Cedente turba. Dirus exclamat Charon:
"Quo pergis audax? siste properantem gradum."
Non passus ullas natus Alcmena moras
Ipso coactum navitam conto domat,
Scanditque puppem; cymba populorum capax 775
Succubuit uni; sedit, et gravior ratis
Utrimque Lethen latere titubanti bibit.
Tunc victa trepidant monstra, Centauri truces
Lapithæque multo in bella succensi mero.
Stygiæ paludis ultimos quærens sinus 780
Fœcunda mergit capita Lernæus labos.
Post hæc avari Ditis apparet domus:
Hic sævus umbras territat Stygius canis,
Qui trina vasto capita concutiens sono
Regnum tuetur: sordidum tabo caput 785
Lambunt colubræ, viperis horrent jubæ,
Longusque torta sibilat cauda draco;
Par ira formæ. Sensit ut motus pedum,
Attollit hirtas angue vibrato comas,
Missumque captat aure subrecta sonum 790
Sentire et umbras solitus. Ut propior stetit
Jove natus, antro sedit incertus canis,
Et uterque timuit. Ecce, latratu gravi
Loca muta terret, sibilat totos minax
Serpens per armos, vocis horrendæ fragor 795
Per ora missus terna felices quoque
Exterret umbras. Solvit a læva feros
Tunc ipse rictus, et Cleonæum caput

Opponit, ac se tegmine ingenti clepit:
Victrice magnum dextera robur gerens 800
Huc nunc et illuc verbere assiduo rotat,
Ingeminat ictus; domitus infregit minas,
Et cuncta lassus capita submisit canis,
Antroque toto cessit. Extimuit sedens
Uterque solio dominus, et duci jubet: 805
Me quoque petenti munus Alcidæ dedit.
Tunc gravia monstri colla permulcens manu
Adamante texto vincit. Oblitus sui
Custos opaci pervigil regni canis
Componit aures timidus, et patiens trahi 810
Herumque fassus, ore submisso obsequens
Utrumque cauda pulsat anguifera fera latus.
Postquam est ad oras Tænari ventum, et nitor
Percussit oculos lucis ignotæ, novos
Resumit animos vinctus, et vastas furens 815
Quassat catenas: pæne victorem abstulit,
Pronumque retro vexit, et movit gradu.
Tunc et meas respexit Alcides manus:
Geminis uterque viribus tractum canem
Ira furentem et bella tentantem irrita 820
Intulimus orbi; vidit ut clarum æthera,
Et pura nitidi spatia conspexit poli,
Oborta nox est, lumina in terram dedit,
Compressit oculos, et diem invisum expulit,
Aciemque retro flexit, atque omni petiit 825
Cervice terram: tum sub Herculea caput

Abscondit umbra. Densa sed læto venit
Clamore turba frontibus laurum gerens,
Magnique meritas Herculis laudes canit.

SCENA TERTIA.

Chorus Thebanorum.

Natus Eurystheus properante partu 830
Jusserat mundi penetrare fundum:
Deerat hoc solum numero laborum
Tertiæ regem spoliare sortis.
Ausus est cæcos aditus inire,
Ducit ad manes via qua remotos 835
Tristis et silva metuenda nigra,
Sed frequens magna comitante turba.
Quantus incedit populus per urbes
Ad novi ludos avidus theatri:
Quantus Eleum ruit ad Tonantem, 840
Quinta cum sacrum revocavit æstas:
Quanta, cum longæ redit hora noctis,
Crescere et somnos cupiens quietos
Libra Phœbeos tenet æqua currus,
Turba secretam Cererem frequentat, 845
Et citi tectis properant relictis
Attici noctem celebrare mystæ:
Tanta per campos agitur silentes
Turba: pars tarda gradiens senecta
Tristis et longa satiata vita: 850

Pars adhuc currit melioris ævi,
Virgines nondum thalamis jugatæ
Et comis nondum prositis ephebi
Matris et nomen modo doctus infans:
His datum solis, minus ut timerent, 855
Igne prælato relevare noctem.
Ceteri vadunt per opaca tristes,
Qualis est nobis animus remota
Luce, cum mœstus sibi quisque sentit
Obrutum tota caput esse terra. 860
Stat chaos densum tenebræque turpes
Et color noctis malus ac silentis
Otium mundi vacuæque nubes.
Sera nos illo referat senectus!
Nemo ad id sero venit, unde nunquam, 865
Cum semel venit, potuit reverti.
Quid juvat durum properare fatum?
Omnis hæc magnis vaga turba terris
Ibit ad manes, facietque inerti
Vela Cocyto. Tibi crescit omne, 870
Et quod occasus videt et quod ortus:
Parce venturis! tibi, mors, paramur:
Sis licet segnis, properamus ipsi.
Prima quæ vitam dedit hora, carpit.
Thebis læta dies adest: 875
Aras tangite supplices!
Pingues cædite victimas!
Permixtæ maribus nurus

Solemnes agitent choros!
Cessent deposito jugo 880
Arvi fertilis incolæ!
Pax est Herculea manu
Auroram inter et Hesperum,
Et qua sol medium tenens
Umbras corporibus negat. 885
Quodcunque alluitur solum
Longo Tethyos ambitu,
Alcidæ domuit labor.
Transvectus vada Tartari
Pacatis redit inferis. 890
Jam nullus superest timor:
Nil ultra jacet inferos.
Stantes, sacrificus, comas
Dilecta tege populo.

ACTUS QUARTUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

HERCULES. THESEUS. AMPHITRYON. MEGARA.

HERCULES.

Ultrice dextra fusus adverso Lycus 895
Terram cecidit ore: tum quisquis comes
Fuerat tyranni, jacuit et pœnæ comes.
Nunc sacra patri victor et superis feram,
Cæsisque meritas victimis aras colam.
Te, te, laborum socia et adjutrix, precor, 900
Belligera Pallas, cujus in læva ciet
Ægis feroces ore saxifico minas!
Adsit Lycurgi domitor et rubri maris
Tectam virenti cuspidem thyrso gerens:
Geminumque numen, Phœbus et Phœbi soror, 905
Soror sagittis aptior, Phœbus lyræ;
Fraterque quisquis incolit cœlum meus,
Non ex noverca frater; huc appellite
Greges opimos! Quidquid Indorum seges
Arabesque odoris quidquid arboribus legunt, 910
Conferte in aras; pinguis exundet vapor.
Populea nostras arbor exornet comas:
Te ramus oleæ fronde gentili tegat,
Theseu. Tonantem nostra adorabit manus:
Tu conditores urbis et silvestria 915
Trucis antra Zethi nobilis Dircen aquæ

Laremque regis advenæ Tyrium coles.
Date tura flammis.

AMPHITRYON.

Nate, manantes prius
Manus cruenta cæde et hostili expia.

HERCULES.

Utinam cruorem capitis invisi deis 920
Libare possem! Gratior nullus liquor
Tinxisset aras: victima haud ulla amplior
Potest magisque opima mactari Jovi
Quam rex iniquus.

AMPHITRYON.

Finiat genitor tuos
Opta labores: detur aliquando otium 925
Quiesque fessis.

HERCULES.

Ipse concipiam preces
Jove meque dignas. Stet suo cœlum loco
Tellusque et æther: astra inoffensos agant
Æterna cursus: alta pax gentes alat:
Ferrum omne teneat ruris innocui labor: 930
Ensesque lateant: nulla tempestas fretum
Violenta turbet: nullus irato Jove
Exsiliat ignis: nullus hiberna nive
Nutritus agros amnis eversos trahat:
Venena cessent: nulla nocituro gravis 935
Succo tumescat herba: non sævi ac truces
Regnent tyranni. Si quod etiamnum est scelus

Latura tellus, properet; et si quod parat
Monstrum, meum sit. Sed quid hoc? medium diem
Cinxere tenebræ: Phœbus obscuro meat 940
Sine nube vultu. Quis diem retro fugat,
Agitque in ortus? unde nox atrum caput
Ignota profert? unde tot stellæ polum
Implent diurnæ? Primus en noster labor
Cœli refulget parte non minima Leo, 945
Iraque totus fervet, et morsus parat;
Jam rapiet aliquod sidus: ingenti minax
Stat ore, et ignes efflat, et rutila jubam
Cervice jactat: quidquid autumnus gravis
Hiemsque gelido frigida spatio refert, 950
Uno impetu transiliet, et verni petet
Frangetque Tauri colla.

AMPHITRYON.

Quod subitum hoc malum est?
Quo, nate, vultus huc et huc acres refers,
Acieque falsum turbida cœlum vides?

HERCULES.

Perdomita tellus, tumida cesserant freta, 955
Inferna nostros regna sensere impetus:
Immune cœlum est, dignus Alcidæ labor.
In alta mundi spatia sublimis ferar!
Petatur æther! Astra promittit pater.
Quid si negaret? Non capit terra Herculem, 960
Tandemque superis reddit. En ultro vocat

Omnis deorum cœtus, et laxat fores
Una vetante. Recipis, et reseras polum,
An contumacis januam mundi traho?
Dubitatur etiam? Vincla Saturno exuam, 965
Contraque patris impii regnum impotens
Avum resolvam. Bella Titanes parent
Me duce furentes! saxa cum silvis feram,
Rapiamque dextra plena Centauris juga.
Jam monte gemino limitem ad superos agam. 970
Videat sub Ossa Pelion Chiron suum!
In cœlum Olympus tertio positus gradu
Perveniet, aut mittetur.

AMPHITRYON.

Infandos procul
Averte sensus: pectoris sani parum
Magni tamen compesce dementem impetum. 975

HERCULES.

Quid hoc? Gigantes arma pestiferi movent:
Profugit umbras Tityos, ac lacerum gerens
Et inane pectus quam prope a cœlo stetit?
Labat Cithæron, alta Pallene tremit
Macetumque Tempe; rapuit hic Pindi juga: 980
Hic rapuit Œten; sævit horrendum Mimas.
Flammifera Erinnys verbere excussosonat,
Rogisque adustas propius ac propius sudes
In ora tendit; sæva Tisiphone caput
Serpentibus vallata post raptum canem 985
Portam vacantem clausit opposita face.

Sed ecce proles regis inimici latet,
Lyci nefandum semen! Inviso patri
Hæc dextra jam vos reddet! Excutiat leves
Nervus sagitas! Tela sic mitti decet 990
Herculei.

AMPHITRYON.

Quo se cæcus impegit furor?
Vastum coactis flexit arcum cornibus,
Pharetramque solvit; stridet emissa impetu
Arundo; medio spiculum collo fugit
Vulnere relicto.

HERCULES.

Ceteram prolem eruam 995
Omnesque latebras. Quid moror? Majus mihi
Bellum Mycenis restat: ut Cyclopea
Eversa manibus saxa nostris concidant,
Huc eat et illuc valva dejecto objice,
Rumpatque posteis; columen impulsum labet.
Perlucet omnis regia; hic video abditum 1001
Natum scelesti patris.

AMPHITRYON.

En blandas manus
Ad genua tendens voce miseranda rogat.
Scelus nefandum, triste, et aspectu horridum,

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996. *Omnesque latebris;* Bothe. *Omnem e latebris;* Gronov.

999. Al. *aula disjecto.*

Dextra precante rapuit, et circa furens 1005
Bis ter rotatum misit: ast illi caput
Sonuit; cerebro tecta disperso madent.
At misera parvum protegens natum sinu
Megara furenti similis e latebris fugit.

HERCULES.

Licet Tonantis profuga condaris sinu, 1010
Petet undecunque temet hæc dextra, et feret.

AMPHITRYON.

Quo misera pergis? quam fugam aut latebram petis?
Nullus salutis Hercule infenso est locus:
Amplectere ipsum potius, et blanda prece
Lenire tenta.

MEGARA.

Parce jam, conjux, precor! 1015
Agnosce Megaram! Natus hic vultus tuos
Habitusque reddit. Cernis, ut tendat manus?

HERCULES.

Teneo novercam. Sequere, da pœnas mihi,
Jugoque pressum libera turpi Jovem!
Sed ante matrem parvulum hoc monstrum occidat! 1020

MEGARA.

Quo tendis amens? Sanguinem fundes tuum?

1005. *precantem;* Bothe conj.

AMPHITRYON.

Pavefactus infans igneo vultu patris
Perit ante vulnus: spiritum eripuit timor.
In conjugem nunc clava libratur gravis.
Perfregit ossa: corpori trunco caput 1025
Abest, nec usquam est. Cernere hoc audes nimis
Vivax senectus? Si piget luctus, habes
Mortem paratam. Pectus in tela indue;
Vel stipitem istum cæde monstrorum illitum
Converte. Falsum ac nomini turpem tuo 1030
Remove parentem, ne tuæ laudi obstrepat.

THESEUS.

Quo te ipse, senior, obvium morti ingeris?
Quo pergis amens? Profuge, et obtectus late,
Unumque manibus aufer Herculeis scelus.

HERCULES.

Bene habet: pudendi regis excisa est domus. 1035
Tibi hunc dicatum, maximi conjux Jovis,
Gregem cecidi. Vota persolvi libens
Te digna: et Argos victimas alias dabit.

AMPHITRYON.

Nondum litasti, nate: consumma sacrum.
Stat, ecce, ad aras hostia; exspectat manum 1040
Cervice prona; præbeo, occurro, insequor:
Macta! Quid hoc est? errat acies luminum,
Visusque mœror hebetat. An video Herculis
Manus trementes? Vultus in somnum cadit,
Et fessa cervix capite submisso labat; 1045

Flexo genu jam totus ad terram ruit:
Ut cæsa silvis ornus aut portus mari
Datura moles. Vivis, an leto dedit
Idem, tuos qui misit ad mortem, furor?
Sopor est: reciprocos spiritus motus agit. 1050
Detur quieti tempus, ut somno gravi
Vis victa morbi pectus oppressum levet.
Removete, famuli, tela, ne repetat furens.

SCENA ALTERA.

Chorus Thebanorum.

Lugeat æther magnusque parens
Ætheris alti tellusque ferax 1055
Et vaga ponti mobilis unda;
Tuque ante omnes, qui per terras
Tractusque maris fundis radios;
Noctemque fugas ore decoro,
Fervide Titan! Obitus pariter 1060
Tecum Alcides vidit et ortus,
Novitque tuas utrasque domos.
Solvite tantis animum monstris,
Solvite, superi! rectam in melius
Flectite mentem! tuque o domitor, 1065
Somne, laborum, requies animi,
Pars humanæ melior vitæ,
Volucer, matris genus Astrææ,

Frater duræ languide mortis,
Veris miscens falsa, futuri 1070
Certus et idem pessimus auctor,
Pater o rerum, portus vitæ,
Lucis requies noctisque comes,
Qui par regi famuloque venis,
Placidus fessum lenisque fove! 1075
Pavidum leti genus humanum
Cogis longam discere mortem:
Preme devictum torpore gravi!
Sopor indomitos alliget artus,
Nec torva prius pectora linquat 1080
Quam mens repetat pristina cursum.
En fusus humi sæva feroci
Corde volutat somnia (nondum est
Tanti pestis superata mali),
Clavæque gravi lassum solitus 1085
Mandare caput quærit vacua
Pondera dextra motu jactans
Brachia vano, nec adhuc omnes
Expulit æstus; sed ut ingenti
Vexata Noto servat longos 1090

1075. Al. *fovens.*
Cod. Flor. et Baden:
Pavidum leti genus humanum
Cogis longam discere mortem;
Placidus fessum lenisque fove!
Preme devictum torpore gravi!

Unda tumultus, et jam vento
Cessante tumet. Pelle insanos
Fluctus animi; redeat pietas
Virtusque viro: vel sit potius
Mens vesano concita motu; 1095
Error cæcus, qua cœpit, eat.
Solus te jam præstare potest
Furor insontem. Proxima puris
Sors est manibus nescire nefas.
Nunc Herculeis percussa sonent 1100
Pectora palmis: mundum solitos
Ferre lacertos verbera pulsent
Victrice manu: gemitus vastos
Audiat æther, audiat atri
Regina poli, vastisque ferox 1105
Qui colla gerit vincta catenis,
Imo latitans Cerberus antro:
Resonet mœsto clamore chaos
Lateque patens unda profundi
Et, qui melius tua tela tamen 1110
Senserat, aer.
Pectora tantis obsessa malis
Non sunt ictu ferienda levi:
Uno planctu tria regna sonent.
Et tu collo decus ac telum 1115
Suspensa diu fortis arundo
Pharetræque graves, date sæva fero
Verbera tergo: cædant humeros

Robora fortes, stipesque potens
Duris oneret pectora nodis: 1120
Plangant tantos arma dolores.
Non vos patriæ laudis comites
Ulti sævo vulnere reges,
Non Argiva membra palæstra
Flectere docti, fortes cæstu 1125
Fortesque manu, jam tamen ausi
Telum Scythicis leve corytis
Missum certa librare manu,
Tutosque fuga figere cervos
Nondumque feræ terga jubatæ, 1130
Ite ad Stygios umbræ portus,
Ite innocuæ, quas in primo
Limine vitæ scelus oppressit
Patriusque furor!
Ite infaustum genus, o pueri, 1135
Noti per iter triste laboris!
Ite, iratos visite reges!

1127. Cod. Flor. — Al. *Scythici — coryti.*
1134. Bothe. — Al.
Patriusque furor! ite infaustum
Genus, o pueri, noti per iter
Triste laboris! ite, iratos
Visite reges.

ACTUS QUINTUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

HERCULES. AMPHITRYON. THESEUS.

HERCULES.

Quis hic locus, quæ regio, quæ mundi plaga?
Ubi sum? sub ortu solis, an sub cardine
Glacialis Ursæ? numquid Hesperii maris 1140
Extrema tellus hunc dat Oceano modum?
Quas trahimus auras? quod solum fesso subest?
Certe redimus. Unde prostrata domo
Video cruenta corpora? an nondum exuit
Simulacra mens inferna? Post reditus quoque 1145
Oberrat oculos turba feralis meos.
Pudet fateri: paveo nescio quid; mihi
Nescio quod animus grande præsagit malum.
Ubi est parens? ubi illa natorum grege
Animosa conjux? cur latus lævum vacat 1150
Spolio leonis? quonam abit tegimen meum
Idemque somno mollis Herculeo torus?
Ubi tela? ubi arcus? arma quis vivo mihi
Detrahere potuit? spolia quis tanta abstulit?
Ipsumque quis non Herculis somnum horruit? 1155
Libet meum videre victorem, libet.

1143. Bothe, *prostrata a domo.*

Exsurge, virtus, quem novum cœlo pater
Genuit relicto, cujus in fœtu stetit
Nox longior quam nostra. Quod cerno nefas?
Nati cruenta cæde confecti jacent: 1160
Peremta conjux. Quis Lycus regnum obtinet?
Quis tanta Thebis scelera moliri ausus est
Hercule reverso? Quisquis Ismeni loca,
Actæa quisquis arva, qui gemino mari
Pulsata Pelopis regna Dardanii colis, 1165
Succurre! sævæ cladis auctorem indica!
Ruat ira in omnes; hostis est, quisquis mihi
Non monstrat hostem. Victor Alcidæ lates?
Procede: seu tu vindicas currus truces
Thracis cruenti sive Geryonæ pecus 1170
Libyæve dominos, nulla pugnandi mora est.
En nudus adsto; vel meis armis licet
Petas inermem. Cur meos Theseus fugit
Paterque vultus? ora cur condunt sua?
Differte fletus! Quis meos dederit neci 1175
Omnes simul, profare! Quid, genitor, siles?
At tu ede, Theseu, sed tua, Theseu, fide.
Uterque tacitus ora pudibunda obtegit,
Furtimque lacrimas fundit. In tantis malis
Quid est pudendum? numquid Argivæ impotens
Dominator urbis, numquid infestum Lyci 1181
Pereuntis agmen clade nos tanta obruit?

1157. Cod. Flor. — Al. Exsurge, victor.

Per te meorum facinorum laudem precor,
Genitor, tuique nominis semper mihi
Numen secundum, fare, quis fudit domum? 1185
Cui præda jacui?

AMPHITRYON.

Tacita sic abeant mala.

HERCULES.

Ut inultus ego sim?

AMPHITRYON.

Sæpe vindicta obfuit.

HERCULES.

Quisquamne segnis tanta toleravit mala?

AMPHITRYON.

Majora quisquis timuit.

HERCULES.

His etiam, pater,
Quidquam timeri majus aut gravius potest? 1190

AMPHITRYON.

Cladis tuæ pars ista, quam nosti, quota est?

HERCULES.

Miserere, genitor! supplices tendo manus.
Quid hoc? manus refugit. Hic errat scelus.
Unde hic cruor? quid illa puerili madens
Arundo leto? Tincta Lernæa nece 1195

1195. Bothe.— Al.
Arundo leto tincta Lernæa nece?
Jam tela video nostra: non quæro manum.

Jam tela video nostra: non quæro manum.
Quis potuit arcum flectere, aut quæ dextera
Sinuare nervum vix recedentem mihi?
Ad vos revertor, genitor. Hoc nostrum est scelus?
Tacuere; nostrum est.

AMPHITRYON.

Luctus est istic tuus, 1200
Crimen novercæ; casus hic culpa caret.

HERCULES.

Nunc parte ab omni, genitor, iratus tona
Oblite nostri: vindica sera manu
Saltem nepotes: stelliger mundus sonet,
Flammas et hic et ille jaculetur polus: 1205
Rupes ligatum Caspiæ corpus trahant
Atque ales avida! Cur Promethei vacant
Scopuli? Paretur vertice immenso feras
Volucresque pascens Caucasi abruptum latus
Nudumque silvis! Illa, quæ pontum Scythen 1210
Symplegas arctat, hinc et hinc vinctas manus
Distendat alto: cumque revocata vice
In se coibunt saxa, quæ in cœlum exprimunt
Actis utrimque rupibus medium mare,
Ego inquieta montium jaceam mora. 1215
Quin structum acervans nemore congesto aggerem
Cruore corpus impio sparsum cremo?
Sic, sic agendum est: inferis reddam Herculem.

1213. Bothe: *In se coibunt, saxaque in.*

AMPHITRYON.

Nondum tumultu pectus attonito caret;
Mutavit iras, quodque habet proprium furor, 1220
In se ipse sævit.

HERCULES.

Dira Furiarum loca
Et inferorum carcer et sonti plaga
Decreta turbæ, et si quod exsilium latet
Ulterius Erebo Cerbero ignotum et mihi,
Huc me abde tellus! Tartari ad finem ultimum
Mansurus ibo. Pectus o nimium ferum! 1126
Quis vos per omnem, liberi, sparsos domum
Deflere digne poterit? hic durus malis
Lacrimare vultus nescit. Huc ensem date,
Date huc fagittas, stipitem huc vastum date. 1230
Tibi tela frangam nostra; tibi nostros, puer,
Rumpemus arcus, ac tuis stipes gravis
Ardebit umbris: ipsa Lernæis frequens
Pharetra telis in tuos ibit rogos.
Dent arma pœnas: vos quoque infaustas meis 1235
Creambo telis, o novercales manus!

THESEUS.

Quis nomen unquam sceleris errori addidit?

HERCULES.

Sæpe error ingens sceleris obtinuit locum.

THESEUS.

Nunc Hercule opus est; perfer hanc molem mali.

HERCULES.

Non sic furore cessit extinctus pudor, 1240
Populos ut omnes impio aspectu fugem.
Arma, arma, Theseu, flagito propere mihi
Subtracta reddi. Sana si mens est mihi,
Referte manibus tela: si remanet furor,
Pater, recede; mortis inveniam viam. 1245

AMPHITRYON.

Per sancta generis sacra, per jus nominis
Utrumque nostri, sive me altorem vocas
Seu tu parentem, perque venerandos piis
Canos, senectæ parce desertæ, precor,
Annisque fessis! unicum lapsæ domus 1250
Firmamen, unum lumen afflicto malis
Temet reserva! Nullus ex te contigit
Fructus laborum; semper aut dubium mare
Aut monstra timui; quisquis in toto furit
Rex sævus orbe manibus, aut aris nocens, 1255
A me timetur; semper absentis pater
Fructum tui tactumque et aspectum peto.

HERCULES.

Cur animam in ista luce detineam amplius
Morerque, nihil est: cuncta jam amisi bona:
Mentem, arma, famam, conjugem, natos, manus;
Etiam furorem: nemo polluto queat 1261
Animo mederi: morte sanandum est scelus.

AMPHITRYON.

Perimes parentem?

HERCULES.

Facere ne possim, occidam.

AMPHITRYON.

Genitore coram ?

HERCULES.

Cernere hunc docui nefas.

AMPHITRYON.

Memoranda potius omnibus facta intuens 1265
Unius a te criminis veniam pete.

HERCULES.

Veniam dabit sibi ipse, qui nulli dedit ?
Laudanda feci jussus ; hoc unum meum est.
Succurre, genitor, sive te pietas movet
Seu triste fatum sive violatæ decus 1270
Virtutis : effer arma ; vincatur mea
Fortuna dextra.

THESEUS.

Sunt quidem patriæ preces
Satis efficaces ; sed tamen nostro quoque
Movere fletu. Surge, et adversa impetu
Perfringe solito ! nunc tuum nulli imparem 1275
Animum malo resume ! nunc magna tibi
Virtute agendum est : Herculem irasci veta.

HERCULES.

Si vivo, feci scelera : si morior, tuli.
Purgare terras propero : jamdudum mihi

1274. Bothe : *Moveare.*

Monstrum impium sævumque et immite ac ferum
Oberrat: agedum, dextra, conare aggredi 1281
Ingens opus labore bisseno amplius.
Ignave, cessas fortis in pueros modo
Pavidasque matres? Arma nisi dantur mihi,
Aut omne Pindi Thracis exscindam nemus 1285
Bacchique lucos, et Cithæronis juga
Mecum cremabo: aut tota cum domibus suis
Dominisque tecta cum deis templa omnibus
Thebana supra corpus excipiam meum,
Atque urbe versa condar; et si fortibus 1290
Leve pondus humeris mœnia immissa incident,
Septemque opertus non satis portis premar:
Onus omne, media parte quod mundi sedet,
Dirimitque superos, in meum vertam caput.

AMPHITRYON.

Reddo árma.

HERCULES.

Vox est digna genitore Herculis. 1295
Hoc en peremtus spiculo cecidit puer.

AMPHITRYON.

Hoc Juno telum manibus emisit tuis.

HERCULES.

Hoc nunc ego utar.

1287. Bothe, following the editio princeps of Fernandus. Al. *Mecum cremabo; tota cum domibus suis.*

AMPHITRYON.

Ecce, quam miserum metu
Cor palpitat, corpusque sollicitum ferit!

HERCULES.

Aptata arundo est.

AMPHITRYON.

Ecce, jam facies scelus 1300
Volens sciensque.

HERCULES.

Pande, quid fieri jubes?

AMPHITRYON.

Nihil rogamus: noster in tuto est dolor.
Natum potes servare tu solus mihi,
Eripere nec tu. Maximum evasi metum.
Miserum haud potes me facere, felicem potes. 1305
Sic statue, quidquid statuis, ut causam tuam
Famamque in arcto stare et ancipiti scias.
Aut vivis, aut occidis; hanc animam levem
Fessamque senio nec minus quassam malis
In ore primo teneo. Tam tarde patri 1310
Vitam dat aliquis? Non feram ulterius moram;
Letale ferro pectus impresso induam!
Hic, hic jacebit Herculis sani scelus.

HERCULES.

Jam parce, genitor, parce! jam revoca manum!
Succumbe, virtus! perfer imperium patris! 1315
Eat ad labores hic quoque Herculeos labor!
Vivamus! Artus alleva afflictos solo,

Theseu, parentis: dextra contactus pios
Scelerata refugit.

AMPHITRYON.

Hanc manum amplector libens:
Hac nixus ibo; pectori hanc ægro admovens 1320
Pellam dolores.

HERCULES.

Quem locum profugus petam?
Ubi me recondam? quave tellure obruam?
Quis Tanais aut quis Nilus aut quis Persica
Violentus unda Tigris aut Rhenus ferox
Tagusve Ibera turbidus gaza fluens 1325
Abluere dextram poterit? Arctoum licet
Mæotis in me gelida transfundat mare,
Et tota Tethys per meas currat manus:
Hærebit altum facinus. In quas impius
Terras recedes? ortum an occasum petes? 1330
Ubique notus perdidi exsilio locum.
Me refugit orbis; astra transversos agunt
Obliqua cursus; ipse Titan Cerberum
Meliore vultu vidit. O fidum caput,
Theseu, latebram quære longinquam abditam; 1335
Quoniamque semper sceleris alieni arbiter
Amas nocentes, gratiam meritis refer
Vicemque nostris: redde me infernis, precor,
Umbris reductum, meque subjectum tuis
Restitue vinclis! Ille me abscondet locus. 1340
Sed et ille novit.

THESEUS.

Nostra te tellus manet.
Illic solutam cæde Gravidus manum
Restituet armis. Illa te, Alcida, vocat,
Facere innocentes terra quæ superos solet.

NOTES.

NOTES.

In order to understand the relation of the persons introduced into this Drama, it will be necessary to recall some of the principal events of the life of Hercules, as described by poets and mythographers. Hercules, the son of Jupiter and Alcmene, was an object of hatred to Juno, even before his birth. Jupiter having sworn that that descendant of Perseus who should be born about that time (when he expected the birth of Hercules to take place) should rule over the rest of the family, Juno, the protecting deity of mothers, accelerated the birth of Eurystheus, of another branch of the Perseides, and retarded that of Hercules, and thereby made Hercules the vassal of Eurystheus. The latter possessed himself of the government in Tirynth, the city of Amphitryon, and enjoined upon Hercules the performance of those twelve labors or adventures, so familiar in the story of Hercules. When Hercules, after the completion of his adventures, returned to Thebes, where his supposed father, Amphitryon, and Alcmene, had resided since their expulsion from Tirynth, and where he himself had married Megara, the daughter of king Creon, he found the situation of his family sadly changed. Lycus, a man of low birth and an exile, taking advantage of the absence of Hercules, had returned from Eubœa, com-

menced a revolution, slain king Creon and his sons, and possessed himself of the supreme power, sparing the life of Megara and her children, not from any feeling of pity, but for the purpose of making her his wife, and thereby establishing his power more firmly. At that moment Hercules returned, and avenged the wrongs of Creon by the death of Lycus. Upon this, Juno, seeing herself foiled in every effort to destroy her hated step-son, and still unrelenting, rendered Hercules insane, and in that condition he slays his wife and children. When recovered from his temporary insanity, he is with difficulty prevented from laying violent hands on himself, and finally prevailed upon by Theseus to accompany the latter to Attica, there atone for his crimes perpetrated in a state of insanity, and obtain forgiveness and peace.

ACT I. — *Scene I.*

V. 1. *Soror;* Juno, both the sister and wife of Jupiter; in consequence of Jupiter's infidelity she has almost ceased to be his wife.

2. *alienum Jovem;* "alienated from me, occupied with the love of other women."

6. *Arctos;* the mistress of Jupiter, afterwards converted by him into the constellation of the Great Bear.

9. *vector Europæ;* our poet adopts the version of Eratosthenes, according to which the bull which carried off Europa was converted into the constellation Taurus.

11. *Atlantides;* the Pleiades, the daughters of Atlas and Pleione, from whom they derive their common

name. Three of them, Electra, Taygete, and Maia, were mistresses of Jupiter.

12. *Ferro minaci;* the iron club with which Orion is armed.

13. *Perseus;* the son of Jupiter and Danae, afterwards converted into a constellation.—*aureus;* alluding to the circumstance of Jupiter descending to Danae in the form of a shower of gold.

14. *Tyndaridæ;* Castor and Pollux, the sons of Tyndareus and Leda.

15. *Quibusque natis;* Apollo and Diana.—*mobilis tellus stetit;* Latona, according to one version of the myth, being in search of a place where to give birth to her son Apollo, came to Delos, an island driven about by the winds; as soon as she set her foot on shore, four pillars rose up from the bottom of the sea, supporting the island and rendering it stationary.

16. *Bacchi parens;* Semele, the daughter of Cadmus.

18. *puellæ serta Gnossiacæ;* the crown of Ariadne.

20. *Thebana — tellus;* several of the mistresses of Jupiter being natives or residents of Thebes, as Semele, Alcmene.

22. *Alcmene;* the wife of Amphitryon and, by Jupiter, the mother of Hercules.

24. *impendit diem;* the night in which Hercules was begotten, was extended through the following day and night.

33. *superat;* sc. Hercules.

38. *Binos — Æthiopas;* the Æthiopians on the eastern and western side of Africa.

43. *tyranni;* Eurystheus.

46. *Leone;* the lion of Cleonæ or Nemea, slain by

Hercules, whose skin he afterwards wore as a breastplate, and the head as an helmet.—*hydra;* the serpent of Lernæ, a monster with nine, or, according to others, an hundred heads. Hercules killed it, and dipped his arrows in its blood, causing thereby incurable wounds.

47. *inferni Jovis;* Pluto.

49. *fœdus umbrarum;* the rights of the infernal regions, and the covenant between Jupiter, Pluto, and Neptune, by which these rights were secured.

53. *Ipsum;* sc. Pluto.

55. *manibus;* dative.

58. *superbifica;* means "making proud," but it seems here to be used for *superba.*

59. *Atrum — canem;* Cerberus.

70. *Didicit ferendo;* when Hercules took the place of Atlas.

78. *Eurystheus;* the son of Sthenelus and Nicippe, and grandson of Perseus. Jupiter having declared that the firstborn of the descendants of Perseus should rule over the rest, Juno accelerated the birth of Eurystheus, and thereby secured him the power which Jupiter had hoped would belong to Hercules. Jupiter limited, afterwards, the power of Eurystheus over Hercules, determining that it should cease as soon as Hercules should have performed ten exploits prescribed by Eurystheus. Hercules performed them, but Eurystheus objecting to two of them, on the ground of having used the assistance of Iolaus in slaying the Lernæan serpent, and of having received wages for cleansing the Augean stables, Hercules had to perform two more. Thus the servitude of Hercules to Eurystheus was ended.

80. *Siculi verticis;* mount Ætna, placed by Jupiter

upon the fire-breathing Enceladus, one of the giants who attempted to scale Olympus.

81. *Tellus — Doris;* Sicily occupied chiefly by colonies of the Dorian stock.

85. *Nemo — gerat;* a fine idea, and the leading one of the tragedy; Hercules, who cannot be conquered by others, is to be overcome and destroyed by himself.

87. *Eumenides;* the Latin Furiæ, the ministers of Pluto and Proserpine, employed to torment those who had not atoned for their sins; they dwelled near the entrance into the infernal regions, in iron chambers. They had serpents instead of hair, and were armed with torches and whips consisting of serpents, with which they scourged the guilty.

93. *discordem deam;* Discord, the Eris of the Greeks; she, too, dwelled in the infernal regions.

100. *famulæ Ditis;* the Furies.

102. *Megæra;* one of the Furies.

103. *Vastam;* not to be translated by "vast." The fundamental signification of *vastus* is "desolate," "waste," and this remains an element of all the modifications of the meaning of the word.

122. *genitor;* Jupiter.

ACT I. — *Scene II.*

CHORUS.

V. 128. *Phosphoros;* the Latin Lucifer, morning star.

130. *Arcades ursæ;* an allusion to the fable of Callisto and Arcas. Callisto, beloved by Jupiter, bore a son Arcas. To conceal her from Juno, Jupiter changed her into a she bear. In that form she was pursued by

her son Arcas, but, before he could kill her, both were changed into constellations, Callisto into Helice or the great bear, and Arcas into Arcturus.

134. *Jam — rubent;* mount Cithæron, on which Pentheus was torn to pieces by the daughters of Cadmus (*Cadmeis bacchis*).

142. *juvencus;* for *vitulus.*

149. *Thracia pellex;* the nightingale; allusion to the myth of Procne and Philomela; the latter being violated by the husband of the former, Tereus, they agree to slay Itys, the son of Tereus and Procne, and give him to his father to eat. They were changed, Procne into a swallow, Philomela into a nightingale, Tereus into a woodpecker, and Itys into a pheasant.

159. *Hæc;* refers to the preceding description of a simple life.

169. *Illum — locat;* a description not in keeping with the time of the tragedy, being better suited to the latter times of the Roman Republic, than to the heroic age.

181. *Sorores; Parcæ.*

190. *scriptum;* i. e. *constitutum.*

198. *pigros;* the slothful; those who are not eager to obtain wealth, power, and honor.

ACT II. — *Scene I.*

V. 216. *cristati—Angues;* the first exploit of the infant Hercules, killing two serpents which, sent by Juno, approached his cradle.

222. *Mænali;* Mænalus, a mountain in Arcadia. — *pernix fera;* allusion to the third labor of Hercules,

which consisted in catching a swift hind, with golden horns and brazen hoofs, sacred to Diana.

224. *Maximus Nemeæ timor;* the Nemæan lion, slain by Hercules; the first labor of the hero.

225. *lacertis pressus;* being invulnerable.

226. *Quid — datum;* the eighth labor of Hercules; he obtained possession of the horses of Diomedes, king of the Bistones in Thrace, who was accustomed to feed his horses with human flesh; overcame the king, and gave him to his own horses to be eaten.

228. *Erymanthi;* Erymanthus, a river and mountain in Arcadia. The fourth labor of Hercules consisted in catching a wild boar, sacred to Diana, which laid waste the region of mount Erymanthus. He caught him in deep snow, and carried him on his shoulders to Mycene.

230. *Taurumque — metum;* the catching of the Cretan ox, the seventh labor of Hercules. Minos, king of Crete, desiring to sacrifice to Neptune, pretended that he possessed no animal worthy of that deity. Neptune caused an ox of uncommon beauty to emerge from the sea; but Minos substituted a meaner one, and added the other to his herds. Neptune made the ox mad, and through him devastated Crete.

232. *Pastor triformis;* the tenth labor of Hercules. Geryon, a monster with three bodies, possessed a beautiful herd of cattle in the island Erythia, in the Gaditanian gulf. Hercules, after slaying the herdsman Eurytion, and his dog Orthrus, and after a severe contest with Geryon himself, obtained possession of the cattle.—*litoris Tartessii;* the western ocean, called so from Tartessus, a town at the mouth of the river Bætis (Quadalquivir).

234. *Cithæron;* mountain in Bœotia.

237. *montes solvit;* Hercules tore asunder the rocks Abyla and Calpe, thus giving an opening to the Mediterranean sea into the Atlantic ocean.

239. *nemoris opulenti domos;* the eleventh labor of Hercules; the obtaining of the golden apples of the Hesperides, watched by the dragon Ladon.

241. *Lernæ monstra;* the second labor of Hercules; the destruction of the hydra or serpent in the marshes of Lernæ, in Argolis.—*numerosum malum;* alluding to the many heads of the monster.

242. *igne demum vicit;* when Hercules perceived that two heads grew in the place of every one which he struck off, he called Iolaus to his assistance, who handed him firebrands, with which he scorched the wound after striking off a head, and thus prevented the growing of new ones.

244. *Stymphalidas;* the sixth labor of Hercules; huge birds of prey, with iron wings, bills and claws, infested the country near the lake Stymphalis, in Arcadia. Hercules killed them with his arrows.

246. *Regina gentis vidua Thermodontiæ;* the ninth labor of Hercules, to take from Hippolyte, the queen of the Amazons, her sword-belt, which she had received as a gift from Mars. The country of the Amazons was the region in Asia Minor watered by the Thermodon and Halys.

248. *Stabuli — labor;* the fifth labor of Hercules; the cleansing of the stable of Augias, in which, for a considerable time, three thousand heads of cattle had stood.

255. *Natos — vindices;* the sons of Creon, and brothers of Megara, slain by Lycus in order to possess himself of the kingdom of Thebes.

256. *Ipsamque—ultimam;* in apposition to the preceding line.

258. *Cum capite;* sc. *Creontis.*

261. *juventus orta;* Cadmus, on the point of building Cadmea, afterwards the citadel of Thebes, slew a dragon watching a fountain sacred to Mars, and sowed his teeth, from which a number of armed men sprang, who killed one another, with the exception of five, from whom Thebes derived its different tribes or races.

262. *Amphion;* the son of Jupiter and Antiope, grandson of Nycteus of Thebes, and brother of Zethus. Having avenged the wrongs of their mother upon Lycus, her uncle, they took possession of Thebes, and, connecting the citadel Cadmea with the city, they fortified the latter. It was on this occasion that Amphion, by his music, put the stones themselves in motion.

269. *exsulem;* Lycus, exiled by Creon on account of his crimes.

283. *Dirutis—via;* Hercules, by breaking through the mountains Ossa and Olympus, gave an opening to the river Pineus, and thus formed the vale of Tempe. This feat is, according to another tradition, ascribed to Neptune.

290. *rerum terminos;* for *res finitas, prætoritas;* that which has formerly existed on earth; that which has reached the limits of its earthly existence.

296. *Unde—querar;* "whence shall I obtain by my complaints."

300. *Centena;* poetically for *centum;* and by hypallage joined to *collu*, instead of *tauri.*

301. *Secreta—sacra;* the Eleusinian mysteries.

316. *fides;* belief, the tendency of believing.

ACT II. — *Scene II.*

334. *Obliqua;* descriptive of the winding sinuous shores of the country.—*Ismenos;* a river of Bœotia.

335. *Cithæron;* a mountain in the southern part of Bœotia.

336. *Isthmos;* separating the Ionian from the Ægæan sea (*bina freta*), and uniting Peloponnesus with Hellas.

357. *verus;* expressive of Lycus's envious unwillingness to believe in the divine origin of Hercules.

376. *Ausonio;* i. e. *Italico.*

378. *Euripus;* the strait between Eubœa and Bœotia.

386. Swoboda, who has furnished an excellent German translation and a good commentary of the tragedies of Seneca, assigns, very ingeniously, the lines 386 - 394 to Lycus jeering at Megara's family. — *matres;* allusion 1. to Agave, the daughter of Cadmus, sister of Semele, and mother of Pentheus, who with her son resisting Bacchus' claims to divinity, and opposing the introduction of his worship, was filled with madness, and tore her son to pieces; 2. to Ino, the sister of Agave, and wife of Athamas, who is mentioned not on account of her hatred of her step-children, Phrixus and Helle, but because being pursued by her husband, Athamas, whom Juno had made mad, she threw herself with her son into the sea.

388. *Mixtumque nomen;* Œdipus being the husband of his mother, the father of his brothers and sisters.

389. *Fratrum;* Eteocles and Polynices, the sons of Œdipus, contending with each other for the kingdom. —*totidem rogos;* when the bodies of Eteocles and Poly-

nices, who had fallen by each other's hands, were placed upon the funeral pile, the flames divided, indicating thereby the irreconcilable hatred of the brothers.

390. *Tantalis;* Niobe, the daughter of Tantalus and wife of Amphion, king of Thebes. Boasting of her fruitfulness in a manner disparaging to Latona, the mother of Apollo and Diana, her children were slain by Apollo and Diana. Niobe stood afterwards converted into stone in the mountain Sipylus.

391. *Manat;* poetically for *larimat.*

392. *ipse — notas;* Cadmus, bowed down by the misfortunes of his daughters, left Bœotia with his wife Harmonia, and went to Illyria, where they were finally changed into serpents.

406. *Sed ille — acti;* Lycus meets the objection which might be made; *sed* being used in the sense of *at.*

416. *pace rupta;* in the rebellion in which Lycus possessed himself of the supreme power.

425. *qui cœlum tulit;* while Atlas fetched the golden apples of the Hesperides, Hercules took his place and bore heaven on his shoulders.

444. *Phlegram — cruore;* Hercules invited, by the advice of Minerva, to assist the gods against the Giants, did so, and slew among others Alcyoneus and Porphyrion, two of the leaders of the Giants. This battle took place in the fields of Phlegra, in Thessaly.

451. *Pastor — greges;* Apollo, according to a later myth, was obliged, for the murder of the Cyclops, to serve a mortal. He chose Admetus, king of Pheræ, his friend, and took care of his herds.

453. *terra — errante;* Delos, which was a floating island until Latona landed upon it to give birth to Apollo.

455. *draco;* the serpent Pytho, whom Apollo, only four days old, slew.

457. *puer;* Bacchus.

460. *Non — specu;* Jupiter, when a child, was concealed in a cave of mount Ida, to protect him against his father Saturn.

465. *cujus — premens;* describing the degradation of Hercules, who, in order to atone for the murder of Iphitus, had been sold as a slave to Omphale, widow of king Tmolus, in Lydia. Out of love for her he suffered himself to be persuaded to assume the dress, manners, and occupations of a woman, while Omphale took his dress and lion-skin.

477. *Teuthrantis — domus;* according to the common version of the story, Teuthras was either the husband or adopted father of Auge, the mother of Telephus by Hercules. But Seneca seems to have followed another version, according to which Teuthras is the father of Thespius, who gave his fifty daughters as concubines to Hercules, while he was engaged in his expedition against the lion on mount Cithæron. Ovid, in Heroid. 9, 51, seems to adopt the same version.

478. *Pecorumque — greges;* referring to the fifty daughters of Thespius.

479. *Eurystheus;* he as well as Hercules was a grandson of Perseus. Before the birth of either, Jupiter, in the expectation that Hercules would be born first, made a vow that the first-born should rule over all the descendants of Perseus. Juno, however, accelerated the birth of Eurystheus, and hence originated the control which he exercised over Hercules.

482. *Eryx;* the son of Butes and Venus, founder of the town of Eryx, on mount Eryx, in Sicily, caught

an ox, which, belonging to the herd of Geryon carried off by Hercules, swam from Italy to Sicily, and would not deliver it to Hercules until he had engaged in a boxing match. Hercules overcome him after three contests. — *Antæus Libys;* the son of the Earth, a giant in Libya, compelled all travellers to wrestle with him, and among others Hercules. The latter, observing that Antæus gained new strength as often as he touched the earth, raised him up and pressed him to death in his arms.

484. *Busiridis;* Busiris, the son of Neptune and Lysianassa. Being informed by Thrasius, a soothsayer from Cyprus, that a famine then prevailing could be removed by annually sacrificing a stranger who should visit the country (Egypt), Busiris made a beginning with Thrasius himself. When he afterwards attempted to do the same to Hercules, the latter overcame and killed him.

486. *integer Cygnus;* a son of Mars and Pelopea, was in the habit of attacking and robbing those who travelled with gifts to the temple of Apollo at Delphi. Meeting Hercules, a contest arose, in which the latter conquered.

487. *Geryon;* king in Spain, a monster with three bodies (*nec unus Geryon*), the owner of a fine herd of cattle, which Hercules was ordered by Eurystheus to drive away. In the contest which ensued, Geryon was slain by Hercules (*una manu*); see note to v. 232.

495. *Labdaci;* Labdacus, the grandson of Cadmus, father of Lajus, and for a short time king of Thebes.

496. *Œdipodæ;* for *Œdipi* or *Œdipodis*, the son and husband of Jocaste.

498. *regis Ægypti;* Danaus.

500. *Deest una;* allusion to Hypermnestra, the only one of Danaus's daughters who was disobedient to her father's command and spared the life of her husband Lynceus.

504. *remolito;* used in a passive sense.

506. *Congerite;* addressed to his servants.

ACT II. — *Scene III.*

CHORUS.

V. 526. *Eurystheus;* see note to v. 479.

528. *cœliferam;* alluding to the fact of Hercules performing the duty of Atlas.

533. *multivagas domos;* describing the nomadic life of the Scythians.

534. *Et — hospitas;* on account of their wandering life, strangers in their own homes.

535. *freti terga rigentia;* the frozen northern sea.

542. *viduis gentibus;* the Amazons.

544. *spolium;* the sword-belt, the gift of Mars; see note to v. 246.

552. *Tyndaridæ;* the sons, or supposed sons, of Tyndareus, Castor and Pollux. According to Homer, Helena alone is the child of Jupiter and Leda; according to a later version, Pollux is the son of Jupiter, Castor of Tyndareus.

556. *manibus;* for *inferis.*

560. *qui rex;* Pluto.

561. *Bello — Pylon;* Pluto, coming to the assistance of the inhabitants of Pylos, was wounded and conquered by Hercules.

577. *Threiciæ nurus;* commentators find great difficulty in explaining this expression. The idea seems to be, that Thracian women, in particular, are moved by their countryman's conjugal attachment.

578. *lacrimis difficiles;* not easily moved by tears; Pluto and Proserpine.

586. *deos;* that is, the upper deities.

ACT III. — *Scene I.*

V. 592. *O — rector;* the sun.

593. *alterna spatia;* the two hemispheres alternately; a more correct astronomical notion than that of Homer and the earlier poets.

597. *Arcana mundi;* referring to Cerberus.—*Tuque;* Jupiter.

604. *quæ jussit;* Juno.

607. *deterior polus;* the antarctic regions of the heavens.

608. *diro Jovi;* Pluto.

609. *tertiæ sortis loca;* the third share of the universe; the infernal regions; the share of Pluto.

ACT III. — *Scene II.*

V. 618. *Utrumne;* for *utrum.*

625. *trunco;* the club.

629. *possedit;* from *possido.*

630. *leto;* dative.

640. *Me jam redisse;* after these words Hercules leaves the stage in pursuit of Lycus.

658. *teque dominantem;* Pluto.

659. *teque — mater;* Proserpine whom, carried off by Pluto, Ceres sought through the woods of Ætna.

663. *Densis — premit;* the woods of Tænarus extend to, press upon the sea.

679. *Umbræ tenaces;* Farnabius interprets this by *manes avidi*, the infernal regions, which are eager to retain what has come within their reach; or, *tenebræ palpabiles*, thick darkness. Swoboda adopts the latter interpretation, and explains it the darkness which surrounds all things. The former, however, seems to be the correct interpretation. — *immensi sinus;* the genitive of quality belonging to *vado.*

702. *situ;* want of cultivation, fallowness.

711. *discors;* two of different nature.

714. *hic;* for *alter.*

734. *Thetidis socer;* Æacus, the father of Peleus, and grandfather of Achilles.

750. *Ixion;* king of Thessaly. Having murdered his father-in-law, Deion, he was punished for his crime with madness. Jupiter, however, pardoned him, and received him even into heaven. Having forfeited the good will of Jupiter by his overbearing conduct and petulance, he was punished by being fastened on a swiftly turning wheel.

751. *Cervice — Sisyphia;* Sisyphus, the founder of Corinth, famous for his cunning; his punishment for his many crimes was to roll a rock up a hill without being able to prevent it from rolling back.

752. *senex;* Tantalus, guilty of many crimes, especially of perjury, and of entertaining the Gods with the body of his own son Pelops, was in the infernal regions doomed to stand in the midst of a stream without being able to reach it for the purpose of quenching

his thirst, to be surrounded by fruits eluding his grasp, and to be placed beneath a rock threatening momentarily to fall upon him.

756. *Tityos;* attempting to violate Latona; he was for this crime fastened to the ground, while two vultures consumed his entrails constantly growing again.

757. *Danaides;* the daughters of Danaus, for the murder of their husbands, were condemned to fill a perforated vessel.

758. *Cadmeides;* the daughters of Cadmus, Agave, Autonoe, and Ino, who in their madness killed Agave's son Pentheus.

759. *Terretque—avis;* the punishment of Phineus, of being deprived of sight, and having his food defiled by the Harpyes, on account of his having revealed the future to men, is well known. According to another version of this myth, Phineus, at the instance of his second wife Idæa, deprived his sons by his first marriage of their sight, for which crime he afterwards suffered the same punishment in the infernal regions, which, according to the more familiar story, was inflicted upon him during his lifetime.

761. *Patrui;* Pluto.

766. *deformem—coercet;* an adjustment of the toga or pallium which the Romans call *cinctus Gabinus*, when the two ends of the garment are tied together in a knot which prevents a tasteful arrangement of the folds, and causes *deformem sinum.*

767. *lurent;* Bothe's emendation is highly probable. He says *lurent* is the stock from which *luridus* is derived, just as *lucidus*, *pallidus*, *validus*, are derived from *luceo*, *palleo*, *valeo*. The circumstance of the word being a ἅπαξ λεγόμενον, ought not to be an objection to its reception into the text.

778. *victa;* sc. *ab Hercule.*

781. *Lernæus labos;* poetically for hydra, the Lernæan serpent which caused labor to Hercules.

794. *minax Serpens per armos;* the serpents which, instead of hair, covered the neck and shoulders of the dog.

797. *feros — rictus;* pars pro toto, for *pellem.*

798. *Cleonæum caput;* poetically for *caput Cleonæi leonis;* the head of the lion slain by Hercules near Cleonæ and Nemea, the skin of which Hercules wore ever after as a trophy and armor.

805. *Uterque — dominus;* Pluto and Proserpine.

806. *Me quoque;* Theseus, the friend of Pirithous, had accompanied the latter to Hades, to carry off Proserpine, but they were unsuccessful, and had to remain in Hades.

814. *bono;* there is great uncertainty as regards the text. The common reading is *bonos*, belonging to *oculos.* Wakefield proposes *bonus*, agreeing with *nitor;* Lipsius adopts *bono*, as a substantive followed by *lucis;* Rutger's emendation is *lucis ignotæ*, *novos*, belonging to *animos.*

823. Bothe questions, for plausible though not convincing reasons, the genuineness of this line, and encloses it, therefore, in brackets.

ACT III. — *Scene III.*

CHORUS.

V. 830. *properante partu;* being born before his time; see note to v. 78.

840. *Quantus — æstas;* a description of the Olympic

games in Elis. One of the many anachronisms which occur in these Tragedies. Hercules was born 1260 A. C., the Olympic games were instituted 884 A. C., nearly four hundred years later.

842. *Quanta — mystæ;* a description of the Eleusinian festival, which was celebrated in autumn, after harvest, when the sun entered the sign Libra.

855. *His;* i. e. *infantibus.*

874. *Prima — carpit;* the approach of death commences with the first day of life.

893. *Stantes;* indicating the awestruck mind.

894. *populo;* a wreath of poplar leaves.

ACT IV. — *Scene I.*

V. 903. *Lycurgi domitor;* Bacchus, who overcame and severely punished Lycurgus, king of Thrace, for his opposition to the worship of Bacchus and the cultivation of the vine.

907; *Fraterque;* Hercules calls those Gods who are the sons of Jupiter, his brothers.

913. *gentili fronde;* the olive being a native of and abundant in Attica, the country of Theseus.

915. *Tu;* addressed to Theseus. — *conditores urbis;* Cadmus and Amphion.

916. *Zethi;* the son of Jupiter and Antiope, brother of Amphion, pursuing a pastoral life. — *Dircen;* the wife of Lycus. Lycus having obtained possession of the person of his niece Antiope, gave her up to Dirce, who treated her most cruelly, but was finally punished by Antiope's sons, Amphion and Zethus, and after her death changed into a fountain.

917. *regis advenæ;* Cadmus, who came from Tyre.

939. *Sed quid hoc;* his madness begins to show itself.

944. *Primus — leo;* see note to v. 225.

949. *quidquid — colla;* referring to the relative position of the constellations of the Zodiac. The Leo, a sign of summer, is about to leap over the space occupied by the signs of autumn and winter, in order to attack Taurus, a sign of spring.

963. *Una;* Juno.

965. *Saturno;* kept by his son Jupiter in Tartarus.

969. *Centauris juga;* the mountains of Thessaly inhabited by the Centaurs.

970. *monte gemino;* Ossa being placed upon Pelion.

971. *Chiron;* the son of Saturn and Philyra, a Centaur, distinguished for his wisdom and learning; the tutor of many renowned heroes, as Achilles, Jason, Æsculapius.

979. *Pallene;* a city of Macedon.

980. *Macetumque; Macetum* contracted for *Macetarum*, from *Macetæ*, another form for *Macedones.*

981. *Mimas;* one of the Giants.

987. *Sed ecce;* Hercules perceives his children.

990. *Tela — Herculea;* Hercules aims at his children and wife, collected around the altar, and kills one of the children. Megara and the other children flee into the palace.

996. *Omnesque latebras;* Bothe, on the ground that it is incorrect to say *eruere latebras*, changes the latter word into *latebris.* Gronovius proposed to read *omnem e latebris.*

997. *Cyclopea — saxa;* the Cyclopean walls and structures at Mycenæ, the oldest specimens of architecture. Mycenæ, the seat of Eurystheus.

999. *objice;* the original form for *obice.*—*valva dejecto;* the Florentine codex has *dejecto* instead of *disjecto;* Baden restored this reading, and by an ingenious emendation substituted *valva* for *aula.* Besides the better sense which this change gives, Baden supports his emendation by the corresponding passage of the Hercules Furens of Euripides: *ὁ δ' ὡς ἐπ' αὐτοῖς δὴ Κυκλωπείοισιν ὤν, σκάπτει, μοχλεύει θύρετρα· κἀκβαλὼν σταθμὰ, δάμαρτα καὶ παῖδ' ἑνὶ κατέστρωσεν βέλει.* Baden adduces other instances of the use of *valva* in the singular.

1005. *Dextra precante;* cf. Virg. Æn., 12, 930: *dextramque precantem.* The emendation of Bothe, *dextra precantem,* is very plausible.

1030. *Converte;* sc. *in me,* addressed to Hercules.

ACT IV.—*Scene II.*

CHORUS.

V. 1104. *atri regina poli;* the queen of the infernal regions, Proserpine.

1110. *melius;* used for a better purpose, for a less impious object; alluding to the killing of the Stymphalian birds, as compared with the slaying of the children.

1134. The arrangement of the last four lines of this chorus, proposed by Bothe, and supported by good reasons, has been adopted. According to the old arrangement there would be a tribrachys (*que furor*) and a trochee (*boris*) in the middle of a verse, which, though admissible at the close of the line, is not allowed in the middle.

ACT V. — *Scene I.*

V. 1140. *Hesperii — tellus;* the farthest land of the Hesperian sea, that is, the most western country, Spain.

1143. *prostrata domo;* Bothe observes very correctly, that the house had not been destroyed; he connects *prostrata* with *corpora*, and in order to satisfy the metre he inserts the preposition *a* before *domo*, in the sense of "before the house."

1157. *virtus;* the reading of the Florentine codex, adopted by Bothe and Baden; *virtus quem*, a construction according to the sense, because *virtus* stands emphatically for *vir fortis;* cf. Terent. Andr. 3, 5, 1: *Ubi illic est scelus, qui me perdidit?*

1164. *gemino mari;* the Ionian and Ægæan sea.

1165. *Pelopis regna;* Peloponnesus.

1170. *Thracis cruenti;* Diomedes, king of Thrace, who fed his horses with human flesh; cf. v. 226. — *Geryonæ pecus;* cf. v. 231.

1171. *Libyæve dominos;* Antæus and Atlas.

1181. *Dominator;* Eurystheus.

1193. *Hic errat scelus; hic* referring to *manus;* my hand is to be looked upon as the author of the crime, although I cannot explain how it has perpetrated it.

1211. *Symplegas;* the singular for the plural; Hercules is to be fastened to these movable rocks, the *Symplegades*, with one hand on each, and extended or compressed by the alternating motion of the rocks.

1213. *saxa, quæ;* according to the reading of Bothe, *saxaque, manus* is the nominative to *coëunt*.

1215. *Ego — mora; inquieta mora* is in apposition to *ego;* without ever enjoying rest, I lie there a delay, an

hindrance to the rocks, preventing them from coming in contact.

1255. *manibus aut aris;* not the dative, governed by *nocens*, but the ablative of the instrument. Gronovius mentions as an example Busiris; cf. note to v. 484.

1282. *labore bisseno;* poetically for *laboribus duodecim.*

1293. *Onus omne;* the earth itself which forms the centre of the universe.

1336. *semper — arbiter;* allusion to the fidelity of Theseus, exhibited in accompanying Pirithous in his attempt to carry off Proserpine.

1341. *Nostra — tellus;* Attica.

1344. *Facere — solet;* allusion to the trial of Mars by the twelve Gods. Mars having slain Halirrhothius, the son of Neptune, the twelve Gods sat, in Athens, in judgment upon him, and acquitted him.

METRES.

METRES.

The *Hercules Furens* of Seneca is, as regards the metres, more simple than the Medea. Six kinds of verses only are used in the former, while the latter contains eleven; but both plays resemble each other as to the perfection and precision of their metrical execution. It will not be necessary to enter into a minute description of these six metres, since the reader who wishes for more complete information may be referred to Munk's work on *The Metres of the Greeks and Romans.**

These six kinds of verses are:

1. The Iambicus trimeter acatalectus.
2. The Anapæsticus dimeter acatalectus.
3. The Anapæsticus monometer acatalectus.
4. The Asclepiadeus trimeter catalectus.
5. The Sapphicus minor.
6. The Glyconicus.

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* The Metres of the Greeks and Romans. A Manual for Schools and Private Study. Translated from the German of Edward Munk, by Charles Beck and C. C. Felton. Boston: James Munroe & Co. 1844.

1. *Versus Iambicus trimeter acatalectus.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 167–175. The iamb (⏑́ —) may be exchanged, in all places except the sixth, for the tribrachys (⏑ ⏑ ⏑́), and in the first, third, and fifth places, for the spondee (— —́), or its solutions,' the dactyle (— ⏑ ⏑́) and anapæst (⏑ ⏑ —́).

The cæsura is generally πενθημιμερὴς, more rarely ἑφθημιμερὴς.

The most common of the many modifications of which the verse is susceptible, is

⏓ — ⏑ — — || — ⏑ — — — ⏑ ⏓

The iambic trimeter is the principal measure used in the dialogue. It occurs in this tragedy, v. 1–124; 204–535; 592–617; 678–829; 895–1053; 1138–1344.

2. *Versus Anapæsticus dimeter acatalectus.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 98–100. The anapæst (⏑ ⏑ —́) may be exchanged for the spondee (— —́) and dactyle (— ⏑ ⏑́). Some of the most frequent forms of this line are:

— —́ ⏑ ⏑ —́ — ⏑ ⏑́ — ⏓́

⏑ ⏑ —́ ⏑ ⏑ —́ — ⏑ ⏑́ — ⏓́

— ⏑ ⏑́ — — — ⏑ ⏑́ — ⏓́

This verse is used in two choruses, that of the first and fourth acts; v. 125–157; 159–203; 1054–1110; 1112–1133; 1135–1137.

3. *Versus Anapæsticus monometer acatalectus.*

This verse occurs three times in this tragedy, interspersed among the anapæstic dimeter. The only two forms of it are :

— ⏑ ⏑́ — —́

⏑ ⏑ —́ — ⏒́

The verse occurs 158; 1111; 1134.

4. *Versus Asclepiadeus.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 141, 142. The form of this verse is :

— — —́ ⏑ ⏑ — ‖ —́ ⏑ ⏑ — ⏑ ⏒

It is used in the chorus of the second act, v. 524 – 591.

5. *Versus Sapphicus minor.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 91. The form of this verse is:

— ⏑ — — —́ ‖ ⏑ ⏑ — ⏑ — ⏒

It is used in the first part of the chorus of the third act, v. 830 – 874.

6. *Versus Glyconicus.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 92. The form of this verse is :

— — —́ ⏑ ⏑ — ⏑ ⏒

It is used in the second part of the chorus of the third act, v. 875 – 894.

A list of these metres, in the order in which they occur in this tragedy, is subjoined.

ACT I.

Scene	I.	v. 1-124.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
	II.	v. 125-157.	Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
		v. 158.	Vers. Anapæst. monomet. acat.
		v. 159-203.	Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
		v. 204.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.

ACT. II.

Scene	I.	v. 205-331.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
	II.	v. 332-523.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
	III.	v. 524-591.	Vers. Asclep.

ACT III.

Scene	I.	v. 592-617.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
	II.	v. 618-829.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
	III.	v. 830-874.	Vers. Sapphic. min.
		v. 875-894.	Vers. Glycon.

ACT IV.

Scene	I.	v. 895-1053.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
	II.	v. 1054-1110.	Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
		v. 1111.	Vers. Anapæst. monomet. acat.
		v. 1112-1133.	Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
		v. 1134.	Vers. Anapæst. monomet. acat.
		v. 1135-1137.	Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.

ACT. V.

Scene	I.	v. 1138-1344.	Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.